MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He will form Games Associations and all the rest of the plan will have to be suggested later on.

PRESIDENT: Question time is over. Mr. Damodaran Asan's question put yesterday will be answered on Monday if time permits.

The general discussion of the budget will now be continued.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : സർ, ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രിമഹാരാജരാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ് ഒരു ധനവാന്റെതാണെന്നും സാധാരണ കൃഷീവലന്മാരായ ആളുകൾക്കു ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ പറ്റിയതല്ലെന്നും പറയേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ എനിക്കതിയായ വ്യസനമുണ്ട്. കൃഷിക്കാക്കു യാതൊരുവിധമായ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളും ലഭിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു നവീനവർഷത്തെ സ്വാഗതംചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു സന്ദർഭമാണ് ഇതെന്നു ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രി ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ വിചാരിച്ചില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ബഡ്ജറുകൊണ്ടു തെളിയുന്നതാണ്. കൃഷിക്കാക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സങ്കടങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു എന്താണു അടുത്തവർഷത്തിൽ ചെയ്യാൻപോകുന്നതു് എന്നുള്ള ഒരു സൂചനപോലും ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. അടുത്തവർഷത്തിൽ കൃഷിതന്നെ ഇറക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം കൃഷീവലന്മാർ അധ്വകണ്ടു കുഴങ്ങുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അവരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. കൃഷീവലന്മാർ കൊടുക്കുന്ന നികുതിയാണ് ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ അതി പ്രധാനമായ മുതലെടുപ്പു എന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെയും നിഷേധിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യമല്ല. നികുതിദായകന്മാർ കൊടുക്കുന്ന നികുതിയുടെ ഒരു പ്രധാനഭാഗം അവരുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കു വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള തത്വംതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മറന്നുകളഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷീവലന്മാക്കു വേണ്ടസൌകര്യാദികളുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയുമാണ്. കൃഷിസാമാനങ്ങൾ കടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യമാകട്ടെ അവയുടെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വിലകിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള മാർക്കറ്റുകളുണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സമർത്ഥന്മാരായ ഡയറക്ടർമാരെ പലതവണയും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവർക്കു ശരിയായവിധത്തിലുള്ളതുക അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു അവരുടെ പദ്ധതിയനുസരിച്ചു നടത്താൻ ഇതുവരെ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി പ്രധാനമായി ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു കൃഷി, കച്ചവടം, കൈത്തൊഴിൽ ഈ മൂന്നു സംഗതികളെയാണു്. ഒരു ടെയിഡ് ഏജന്റിനെ നിയമിക്കാനായി കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടത്തെ (ക്ര ക്ര ഠ വ്യ) ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും അതു ഒരു വിധത്തിലും ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ആണ്ടിലും ബഡ്ജറിൽ അതുപോലെ ഒരു തുക ചേത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയും ഏതുവിധമാണെന്നു കണ്ടുതന്നെ അറിയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ ഭാഗ്യംകൊണ്ടു് നമുക്കു നാട്ടുകാരനായ ഒരു വ്യവസായ ഡയറക്ടരെ ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു വലുതായ ഗുണമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു വലുതായ മോഹവുമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു നൽകുന്നില്ല. വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നുംമറ്റുമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ വില്ക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട പദ്ധതികൾക്കായി കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ക്ര ഒ, ക്രനു ഠ രൂപാ ചേത്തിരുന്നു. ഈ തുകകൊണ്ടു് ഏതു സെയിൽസ്ഷാപ്പുകളാണു തുറക്കാൻപോകുന്നതെന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള ഷാപ്പുതന്നെ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു തുറക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നു സംശയമാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷത്തിൽ പരസ്യത്തിനായി ക്ര ഭ ഠ രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേത്തിരുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന സർ. പി. രാജഗോപാലാചാര്യർ വ്യവസായം, കച്ചവടം ഇവയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി പ്രധാനമായി ആശ്രയിച്ചുനിൽക്കുന്നതു പരസ്യത്തെയാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ പരസ്യത്തിനായി നീക്കിവച്ചിരുന്ന രൂപാതന്നെ ചിലവാക്കാതിരുന്നതു് അതുകൊണ്ടു മതിയാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു. ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ അതിലേക്കനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു നു ഭ ഠ രൂപായാണു്. അതുമതിയാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. സാമാന്യം പ്രചാരമുള്ള ഹിന്ദുപത്രത്തിൽതന്നെ പരസ്യം ചേർക്കണമെങ്കിൽ വ്യ ഠ രൂപാവരെ വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഗവണ്മെന്റു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പരിഗണനംചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതൊട്ടുംതന്നെ അസ്ഥാനത്താവുകയില്ല.

ക്ര ഠ ഒ-ലെയും ക്ര ഠ വ്യ-ലെയും നീക്കുതിതന്നെ ഇനിയും ഈടാകാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ക്ര ഠ ൻ-ലെ നീക്കുതി പിരിഞ്ഞുകിട്ടുന്നകാര്യം കണ്ടുതന്നെ അറിയേണ്ടതാണു്. ധനശാസ്ത്രത്തി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai]

ന്റെ മൂലതത്വങ്ങളിൽ പ്രഥമഗണനീയമായ യാതൊരു തത്വങ്ങളേയും അവലംബിച്ചിട്ടല്ല ബഡ്ജറ്റു തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു പരിഷ്കൃതഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുകയോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയോ ആണു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം പലതരത്തിലും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈഅവസരത്തിൽ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. ആനിലയ്ക്കു ചിലവു ചുരുക്കാനുള്ള വഴിവേണം ആലോചിക്കാൻ. നികുതി ശരിയായി പിരിയാതേയുംമറ്റും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഒരു യൂറോപ്യൻ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരെ വരുത്തുന്നതിനായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒട്ടും ശരിയല്ല.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർതന്നെ ഒരു യൂറോപ്യനല്ലേ?

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): അതെ. എന്നാൽ വലിയ ശമ്പളംകൊടുത്തു ഒരു ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരെ വരുത്തണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു വലിയ സാഹസമായിപ്പോയി. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ വാദങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അശേഷം വകവയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനു് ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണിതു്. വിദേശികളെ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ മുറവിളികൂട്ടിയതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ദിവാനായിരുന്ന മി. രാഘവയ്യാ വിദേശികളെ വരുത്തുന്നതല്ല എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആ നയം കുറെ കാലത്തേയ്ക്കു അനുവർത്തിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ അതു നിർദ്ദോഷം മാറി. ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയരുടെ കഥ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മി. ആർ. രാമൻപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർതന്നെ ഒരു യൂറോപ്യനാണു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തെതന്നെ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയറായി സ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ രണ്ടുവിധം ഗുണമുണ്ടു്. വിദേശികളെ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് രണ്ടുവിധത്തിലുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളാണു് ഇവിടെ വരുന്നതു്. ഒന്നാമതു വിദേശികളുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിസമ്പ്രദായംനിമിത്തം അതാതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ളവർക്കു ന്യായമായ പ്രമോഷൻ ലഭിക്കാതെ വരികയും തന്നിമിത്തം അവരുടെ ജോലിയിൽ ഉന്മേഷക്കുറവുവരികയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. രണ്ടാമതു വിദേശികളുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിനിമിത്തം നമ്മുടെ ചിലവും കൂടുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം മനസ്സിരുത്തി ഒരു സുസ്ഥിരമായ നയം അനുവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ലോകം മുഴുവനും ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയെക്കുറിച്ചാണു്. അതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗം എന്താണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഇതുവരെ ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇതിനുമുമ്പിലത്തെ പ്രജാസഭയിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നടത്തിവരുന്ന റയിൽവേയിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാരെക്കൂടി നിയമിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുകയും, അതിനു അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അങ്ങിനെ കമ്പനിക്കാരുമായി എഴുത്തുകുത്തു നടത്തി സമ്മതിപ്പിക്കയുംചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ അനുഭവത്തിൽ അങ്ങിനെ കാണുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ പണംകൊണ്ടു നടത്തപ്പെടുന്ന റയിൽവേയിൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടുകാക്കുകൂടി പ്രവേശനം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു കമ്പനിക്കാർക്കു എഴുതിഅയക്കണമെന്നുകൂടി എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി മിച്ചം കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് സമർപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള ഒരു ബഹുമതിക്കു് അർഹനാണു്. ഈ മിച്ചം കാണിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെപറ്റി ഒരഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞേയ്ക്കും; എന്നാൽ മിച്ചം കാണിച്ചാലും ഈ ഒരഭിപ്രായം വരാതിരിക്കാനിടയില്ല. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ വിശുദ്ധാഭിപ്രായമാണു നമുക്കാവശ്യം. ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽതന്നെ ഇതിനുമുമ്പു് ഒരവസരത്തിൽ മിച്ചം കാണിക്കാതെയുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി നിരൂപണംചെയ്തപ്പോൾ അന്നത്തെ ധനകാര്യവിശുദ്ധനായ റാവു ബഹദൂർ കെ. വി. രങ്കസ്വാമിഅയ്യങ്കാർ "മിച്ചംകാണിച്ച ബഡ്ജറുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഒരു ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രി അയാളുടെ ജോലിയിൽ പരാജിതനായിതീരുന്നതാണു്" എന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകയുണ്ടായി. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഈ അഭിപ്രായം സ്വീകാര്യമാണെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണു്.

അതിനാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ കാർഷികരുടെ രക്ഷയെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളുടെ നിവാരണത്തിനായി എന്തെങ്കിലുംരക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations expressing my opinions on the budget. On reading through the speech of the Financial Secretary made in introducing the budget, I find indications here and there to show that the Government is making an attempt to pursue a progressive policy so that the State might keep abreast of the advancing times and maintain its name that it is a progressive State. Provision is made liberally and otherwise for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. J. M. Joseph].

certain progressive measures, for the encouragement of industries, for the improvement of sanitation and public health, for increasing the amenities of people in several parts of Travancore by undertaking capital works and also for certain steps conducive to the more efficient discharge of duties connected with administration. In my opinion the Financial Secretary deserves credit for presenting a budget showing a surplus in these hard times when the country is passing through a financial crisis and economic depression stares the country in its face. It is not only a balanced budget but a budget showing a surplus. In my opinion even if the Financial Secretary had shown a deficit budget he would have been perfectly justified. But on a close scrutiny of the figures in the budget I get the impression, Sir, that the distribution of expenditure is not equitable and fair by which I mean it is not in accordance with the needs of the situation, the people and the departments. The policy, I submit, Sir, therefore has to be revised. It was only the other day that a certain friend of mine, a graduate of the Madras University, who has turned his hand to agriculture, just after hearing the Financial Secretary's speech when he was going along the road remarked "Nero is fiddling when Rome is burning." But I would not put it so strongly. But I would say, Sir, that this is the sort of opinion that prevails among the public especially among the agricultural population. When I scrutinised the figures I expected the figure under income from revenue to stand very low. But it stands so high as Rs. 36 lakhs, a difference of within a lakh from the actuals of 1107. From that I am afraid that no remission of tax is under contemplation by the Government when the people have been crying for it and which members have brought so pointedly to the attention of the Government. I want to submit Sir, that the ryots, especially in South Travancore, are put to very great hardships and are undergoing immense suffering and that South Travancore is also burdened with very heavy taxation. Under these circumstances if the Government is going to call upon the ryots, the agricultural people in South Travancore, to pay down the tax of the year to the last cash, it would be a very great hardship to them. If the Government do not come forward to lend a helping hand, in these hard times, to the ryots who are in the throes of an economic struggle, who else can? And therefore I feel that a remission of tax is an imperative demand of the present situation, not only in South Travancore, but I believe, in North Travancore also. I am greatly disappointed that the revenue figure has not been fixed lower than Rs. 36 lakhs. I would plead that a remission of the taxes that are due from the people to the Government be granted.

I want to say something about water supply. I feel that a separate provision has to be made for water supply. There are certain villages in South Travancore which are entirely in want of good drinking water. In villages round about Muttom for example people are always in want of water. In certain seasons they are put to very great difficulty for want of good drinking water. People there have put in a petition to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government. But I do not know what action has been taken upon that by the Government. So, a separate provision is absolutely necessary for supplying good drinking water in those villages. A sum of Rs. 7,000 has been allotted for sinking wells and constructing roads in villages belonging to the depressed classes. That sum by itself is not enough. There are other people also who are similarly situated and they also merit the attention of Government.

With regard to the agricultural loans, I find that only Rs. 4 lakhs has been allotted for that purpose. I contend, Sir, that it is not enough at all, not adequate at all, to meet the situation. Rs. 4 lakhs is not enough even for South Travancore. Then, how will that be enough for the whole of Travancore? There are other parts of Travancore which are similarly situated and they require help. I feel that at least eight or ten lakhs of rupees should have been allotted for that purpose.

I would now focus attention upon education. Education is one of the great responsibilities of the State, and our Government has felt that responsibility and has always discharged that responsibility to the best of its abilities and to the satisfaction of the subjects. It is no wonder therefore that this Rs. 45 lakhs, a very big slice from the income of the State, has been set apart for the education of the country. I am also thankful that the Government are alive to the necessity of changing the type of education that we are now getting and for that purpose they have already appointed an enquiry committee and we are all looking forward to the report of the committee. When that comes, I believe the right type of education will be introduced into the country and some of the defects that are now found and that are the cause of so much discontent, and probably unemployment, will be removed. But in this field of education the Government for the last one hundred years has had another partner, I mean, the private agencies of whom the Christian Missions have played a very important role in the country. In fact, it was the Christian Missions that introduced English education into the country. They have very nobly and selflessly served the country; and the Government, from time to time, have shown adequate recognition of the valuable help that they have received at the hands of these self-sacrificing missions who have done much for the educational advance of the country. But, of late, I am sorry to note that this recognition, this interest, has been on the wane. Comparing the figures for maintenance grants, I was simply shocked to find that out of Rs. 47 lakhs only Rs. 12,000 has been set apart as maintenance grants to boys' schools. Of course, the girls' schools fare better and I am too chivalrous to grudge that. But the boys' schools fare very badly at the hands of Government. I want to know, Sir, if this is the sort of recognition that is shown to these private institutions who have played an important part in the education of the State, and who are shouldering a great burden of the Government. I therefore contend that Rs. 12,000 is not at all adequate. It is in my opinion, Sir, if I may be pardoned for using strong language, very unfair to these private institutions who have borne the heat and dust of the day, who have worked

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. J. M. Joseph.]

all along for one hundred years and who are now languishing for want of Government help and support.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the grant-in-aid to boys' schools only Rs. 12,000?

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Yes, that is what I find. I am speaking only of English education and not of Vernacular education now.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the speaker is himself the head of a private institution?

PRESIDENT: That question should not be asked.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): It is my province and therefore I feel it my duty to draw the pointed attention of Government to this aspect of the matter. Last year, a mission school which plays an important part in education and which has six hundred pupils in it received only one hundred rupees. That works at the rate of 2 annas 8 pies per head. But looking at the Government expenditure the boys get about rupees twenty-one per head. Now, these figures speak for themselves. I need not expatiate upon them.

Coming to Vernacular education, I find that grant has been refused to the opening of new classes and new divisions. The result is that the existing classes are overcrowded, the work becomes inefficient and the lads and young men who pass the Vernacular School Final examination and also the Vernacular Higher do not get employment. And they go simply to swell the army of the unemployed. When the managers appeal to Government for help, they receive the answer "retrenchment." Now, I want to tell you, Sir, that the public opinion about retrenchment is that gnats have been strained and camels swallowed. That is the public opinion that exists about this retrenchment and retrenchment is the answer very often flung at the face of any respectable manager who appeals to Government for help. This state of affairs, Sir, is causing a good deal of heart breaking and I therefore feel that a better allotment should have been made for grants to these private institutions which are scattered all over Travancore and which are carrying on the work of education helping the Government considerably. They should have been treated much better than that. Next, I need not say about the pay of the undergraduate teachers and the Vernacular school teachers. That is a big question.

Just a word about the Co-operative Department. The allotment for the Co-operative Department also must be on the increase, in view of the fact that it is coming into importance. The department is engaged in the activities called the nation-building activities. These activities are now increasing and so I believe that the Co-operative Department in future would fare better at the hands of Government. In the co-operative field there are so many non-official agencies that go by the name of supervising unions doing splendid work and the men composing these unions are men fired and animated with the ideals of service. But these unions, from a personal knowledge I can say, are

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

greatly handicapped by want of funds and when we appeal to Government for funds they say this is all that is allotted. Therefore, it is my duty to bring to the notice of Government here that a greater allotment alone would make it possible for the department to give a more liberal grant to these supervising unions so that they might carry forward their work unhampered by want of funds.

One word more. In education there is an item called "Orphanages". Only Rs. 2,000 is allotted for this. It is for charitable work which these charitable institutions carry on. They should receive better help and support at the hands of Government. They are also languishing for want of help and if a revised estimate is to take place, they will fare better I hope.

I am afraid that better allotments for the purposes I have set forth here will alone better the present situation.

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): സർ, ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഞാൻ നോക്കിയതിൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതായ ചില പ്രധാനസംഗതികളിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ ദൃഷ്ടി പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കാദ്യമായി പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തെ ധനസ്ഥിതി ആ രാജ്യത്തധിവസിക്കുന്ന ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയിൽ നിന്നാണല്ലോ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നത്. ലോകം ഒട്ടാകെ ക്ഷാമം ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു് ഈ ക്ഷാമം നമ്മെയും ബാധിക്കുമെന്നും, ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, അതിനാൽ വരവിനങ്ങളിൽ സാരമായ കുറവുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റുകൊണ്ടു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടതയേയും ധനസ്ഥിതിയേയും ലേശംപോലും ഗണിക്കാതെ കഴിയുന്നിടത്തോളം അവരിൽ നിന്നും തുക അടുത്തകാല്ലവും ഈടാക്കണമെന്നും, അവയെ പതിവുപോലെ ചിലവാക്കണമെന്നും ഉള്ള ഉദ്ദേശമാണ് ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിക്കുള്ളതെന്നും കാണാം. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആദായത്തിൽ ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗം കർഷകരുടെ പ്രയത്നഫലത്തിൽ നിന്നാണ് ലഭിക്കുന്നതു്. കൃഷിക്കാക്ക് അവരുടെ പ്രയത്നത്തിനു തക്ക സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കാതെ കരംമാത്രം പിരിക്കുക എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും ശരിയല്ല. ക്ഷാമം നിമിത്തവും ക്രൂടക്രൂടെ ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നിമിത്തവും കൃഷിക്കാർ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുവലയുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അവരിൽനിന്നു ഈടാക്കേണ്ട കരം ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കയൊ, കുറവാക്കുകയൊ ചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം അധികം താമസംക്രൂടാതെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെയും അവരെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കുടുംബക്കാരുടേയും നില പരിതാപകരമായ ഒരവസ്ഥയിൽ എത്തുമെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. K. Janardana Kamath.]

ന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി ആ രാജ്യനിവാസികളുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാക്ക് അവരുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനു തക്കഫലംകിട്ടുന്നതിന് അവകാശമുള്ളതും അപ്രകാരമുള്ള അവരുടെ അവകാശത്തെ ഗണിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുള്ളതുമാകുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു ലാൻറുറവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണരുടേയും ശ്രദ്ധപതിയേണ്ടതാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഇനി കച്ചവടമെമ്പറെന്നനിലയിൽ രണ്ടു സംഗതിക്രൂടി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. എനിക്കിതിൽ പ്രധാനമായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് തീരുവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. കയറുമതി തീരുവ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തല്ലാതെ മറേതെങ്കിലും പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യത്തു ചുമത്താറുണ്ടോ എന്നു് എനിക്കു ബലമായ സംശയമുണ്ട്. ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ധരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കയറുമതി തീരുവ കൃഷിക്കാക്കു ഒരു ഭാരമായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കൃഷി ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായവില കിട്ടാതെ കൃഷിക്കാർ വലയുന്നഇക്കാലത്തു് ഈ തീരുവയും അവർ സ്വന്തം കയ്യിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഈ കയറുമതി തീരുവ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല.

ഇനി എനിക്കു ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യം തീരേയില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാക്കു ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നുള്ളതിൽ രണ്ടു പക്ഷത്തിനവകാശമില്ലല്ലോ. കുന്നത്തുനാടു, മുവാറുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകൾ സമുദ്രതീരത്തിൽ നിന്നു വളരെ അകന്നു ഉള്ളിലായി തള്ളിക്കിടക്കുകയാണ്. വർഷകാലത്തുമലവെള്ളത്തിന്റെ ഒഴുക്കുകൊണ്ടും, വേനൽക്കാലത്തു ജല ദൌർല്ലഭ്യംകൊണ്ടും ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം തീരെ കുറവാണ്. തന്നിമിത്തം ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളും കൃഷിക്കാരും വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടനുഭവിക്കുന്നു. റയിൽവേ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽകൊണ്ടു ഘടിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നു കുറെക്കാലം മുമ്പു ഒരു കേൾവിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതിനുയാതൊരനക്കവുമില്ല. റയിൽവേ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു നീട്ടുന്നപക്ഷം ഇപ്പോൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പള്ളിവാസൽ ഹൈഡ്രോ ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് സ്കീം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ജോലിക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ സൌകര്യമായികൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപ്പതനമെന്ന മുറവിളിക്കുട്ടുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു റയിൽവെ തുറക്കുന്നതു് ആശാസ്യമാണെന്ന മെമ്പർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപ്പതനമുണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് ആ ശ്യമുള്ളവ ചെയ്യാതിരുന്നാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു കഷ്ടം കുറെക്കൂടി വരികയേയുള്ളൂ.

പള്ളിവാസൽ ഹൈഡ്രോഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് സ്കീം തന്നെ ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു ആവശ്യമില്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു പലരുടേയും മനസ്സിൽ തോന്നിയേക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഈ സ്കീം നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുന്നതു്, ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്കും കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും വ്യവസായികൾക്കും അവരുടെ തൊഴിലിൽ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു വളരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

വ്യവസായാഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കായി തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും ഉൗട്ടിയിലും ഓരോ സെയിൽസ് ഡിപ്പോ തുറന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു വളരെ ആശ്വാസകരം തന്നെ. ഇതുപോലെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സെയിൽസ് ഡിപ്പോകൾ തുറക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നാൽ വ്യവസായവും കച്ചവടവും അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുമെന്നുള്ളതിൽ യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ സെയിൽസ് ഡിപ്പോ നടത്തുന്നതിൽ ഒരു പരിഷ്കാരംചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതായതു ഇപ്പോൾ സെയിൽസ്മാന് പ്രതിമാസം ശമ്പളംകൊടുക്കുക എന്നുവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടുമാറ്റി വിറ്റുവരുന്നതുകയനുസരിച്ചു് ഒരു കമ്മീഷൻ കൊടുക്കുക എന്നാക്കിയാൽ അയാൾക്കു സെയിൽസ് നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെക്കാൾ കുറച്ചുകൂടി ഉത്സാഹമുണ്ടാകും. ഇതു കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും ഉപകാരപ്രദമായിരിക്കും.

ആദായനികുതിയെ കുറിച്ചും എനിക്കു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പേരിനുമാത്രം കച്ചവടം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരാളും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നടപടിയനുസരിച്ചു ആദായനികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിതനായിതീരുന്നു. കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ കണക്കു നോക്കി ആദായം നിശ്ചയിക്കേണ്ടതിനു നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ അവരുടെ കണക്കിൽ കാണുന്ന ആദായം ഇന്നതാണെന്നു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ എന്തൊരു തെറ്റുണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നോ എന്നു തോന്നുമാറു കണക്കിൽ കാണുന്നതുകയുംപുറമെ അയാൾ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന തുകയുംകൂടി ചേർത്തു റിപ്പോർട്ടയക്കുന്നു. മേലധികാരികൾ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയല്ല നടക്കുന്നതു്. ആവശ്യമുള്ളപക്ഷം, ആദായ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. K. Janardana Kamath.]

മല്ലെങ്കിലും ആദായനികുതി ചുമത്തത്തക്കവണ്ണം റിട്ടേൺസിൽ വഴിയുണ്ട്. അതായത് "Income derived from other sources" എന്ന ഇനമാണ് ഇത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ന്യായമല്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ ആദായനികുതി ചുമത്തുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു അപ്പീൽ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നിരുന്നാലും അതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ലാതാണ് കാണുന്നത്. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ആദായമുണ്ടോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുമാത്രമെ ആദായനികുതി ചുമത്താവൂ.

MR. K. R. IELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): ഇങ്ങനെ അനാവശ്യമായി ആദായനികുതി ചുമത്തുന്നതിന്മേൽ വല്ല പരാതിയും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Sir, every year, the Financial Secretary has been at very great pains to produce what is known as a balanced Budget. I think the attempt made is to so regulate expenditure as to leave, out of the collections of the year, a amall margin of surplus. This, it appears to me, Sir, is the principle of Micawber's domestic economy applied to the State. As a matter of fact, what every progressive Government ought to do is, not to determine what its annual collection would be and to distribute it among the various absolutely necessary services, but to determine what the actual expenses should be and then to find out the proper means to meet that expenditure. Any other method of framing the Budget would be absolutely wrong in principle. The Budget placed before us is one based upon the first and not the second principle. It appears to me, Sir, that, besides the ordinary duties of a Government, all civilised Governments now spend large sums of money on such social services as public health, education, amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, maternity relief and such other matters calculated to promote the general welfare of the community. I propose to examine the Budget for 1109 in the light of this standard. I will take, for example, public health. The amount sanctioned for the Public Health Department is Rs. 2,59,862 ; this amount works out at the rate of 1 ch. 6 c. per head of population. In certain States of America, I have been informed, they spend up to one dollar per head of population for this purpose. Here as I have already pointed out, it is only 1 ch. 6 c. per head, whereas, for feeding some idle Brahmins, a larger amount, a sum of Rs. 2,71,000 odd, has been provided ; and that works out to about Rs. 47 per head of the Brahmin population. Sir, that is the way in which public funds are wasted in this progressive State while the Public Health Department which I consider to be one of the most important departments in the State is literally starved. Now look at the condition of public health in this country. The average expectancy

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of life in India is only 32. We have not got the figure for Travancore but we may take it that it will be only less than that in British India. In America, it is 58 ; it is 54 in England ; and 47 in Japan. Sir, this terribly low expectation of life here is due to the ravages of epidemic diseases like cholera and small-pox, filth diseases like hook-worm, diarrhoea and enteric fever, and such disabing diseases like filaria and malaria. Sir, in 1103, 10,090 people are said to have died of cholera ; and my friend, Dr. Raman Tampi, anticipates that, next year, there will be a terrible outbreak of cholera unless precautionary measures are taken in due time. Small-pox accounts for 2,000 deaths in 1107. The number of people who are suffering from filaria is 14,709. These figures speak for themselves and show how unsatisfactory is the state of public health in Travancore and why the Government should pay more attention to this Department. My friends spoke appreciatively of the recent amalgamation of the Sanitary and Health Departments and I endorse that view.

Now coming to the question of amelioration of the depressed classes, the allotment for the next year is Rs. 11,300. Of this amounts, Rs. 4,307 is the pay and establishment charges for the Protector of the Depressed Classes, an establishment which to my mind is absolutely useless. It is merely a waste of public funds. Therefore, Rs. 7,000 alone has been really provided for the amelioration of the depressed classes in the State. Sir, the recent floods in Travancore have brought to light the condition of the depressed classes, the need for providing suitable house sites for them and for helping them with materials and money for constructing sheds for their accommodation. Considering all these matters the amount of Rs. 7,000 allotted for the amelioration of the depressed classes cannot but be characterised as meagre. In the small State of Cochin a comparatively large amount is spent for this laudable purpose. I will take your permission, Sir, to read to you a small statement supplied by the Cochin State to the General Secretary (Mr. Thakkar) of the servants of the untouchables society in Delhi. If there is any objection to reading the statement, the statement may be taken as my own.

> " The Pulaya and the Paraya children, boys and girls, are given free education in primary, secondary and college classes. Not only is no fee levied but they are given stipends, free supply of books and four clothes per year (girls a little more). Stipend for primary pupils is one anna a week, for lower forms pupils, Rs. 2 a month, higher forms, Rs. 3 a month and college classes Rs. 10 a month.
>
> There is a Hostel for girls (cosmopolitan) at Ernakulam in which Pulaya girls are admitted on the same footing as other girls (there is a separate hostel for caste-Hindu girls). Government gives half the rent for the hostel building and Rs. 1-5-0 per head towards establishment charges (cooks etc.). There are now 3 Pulaya girls there, two being given free boarding and the third a college student, pays Rs. 8 out of her stipend of Rs. 10.
>
> An extract from the Government budget given below will give an idea of the volume and the nature of the work done for Harijans.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

	Water Supply.	Rs. 2,500
	Colonies for Pulayas and Nayadies 23 in all	15,000
B.	Educational.	
1.	Special Stipends	
	(a) Secondary-boys	2,700
	(b) .. girls	300
2.	Industrial Stipends	260
3.	Pulaya feeding and supply of school materials	
1.	(a) Secondary boys	1,700
	(b) .. girls	200
2.	(a) Primary boys	27,000
	(b) .. girls	2,500
	University Education	600
	Grant-in-aid to schools specially intended for Depressed Classes	35,000
	Total.	Rs. 87,760

Altogether it comes to Rs. 87,760. That is what is done by a State whose income is about one-third of this State.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is there not provision under other budget heads, say, under land revenue for the acquisition of lands for fishermen in Quilon ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I wish to know whether the Financial Secretary has got the right of giving information by interpellation.

PRESIDENT : The Financial Secretary is in order.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : I have not looked up other items of allotment in the Budget to say whether in any other corner of the Budget there lies lurked any item which directly or indirectly bears upon this subject. I shall be very thankful to the Financial Secretary if he will refer to these matters in his reply.

So far as the employment of these people in the public service is concerned, they have to some extent received only a step-motherly treatment. I will cite one instance to illustrate my point. Recently a Pulaya gentleman who is qualified for a Sub-Assistant Surgeon's place came to me and showed me an endorsement that he had got from the Darbar Physician on his application for a place in the Medical Department. He has been told that his rank is 100 in the waiting list. Taking on the average of two vacancies of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in a year, his turn will come 50 years hence. His age now is 37 and therefore he will get a job when he is 87. Now, Sir, out of this one hundred people waiting, 99 must be from well represented communities such as Nayars, Syrian Christians, and Brahmins. Is that not a good reason for affording some preferential treatment to him ? Unless the Government choose to do so there will be no chance for these people as every department is likely to have waiting lists as long if not longer.

Another matter which I wish to refer to in this connection is that there is an impression created in Upper India that the South

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Indian States, like Travancore, Cochin and Mysore are very liberal in helping the depressed classes in regard to their education. So they refuse to give any help to the depressed classes of our State. Recently I forwarded an application for a scholarship to the General Secretary, Mr. Thakkar, General Secretary of the servants of untouchables Society, for a Thanda boy who is studying in the College here. The reply he got was that the Cochin and the Travancore Governments are making liberal provision for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes and therefore no scholarship can be given for boys from those States. Thus, Sir, not only do the depressed classes here not get sufficient encouragement from the Government here but they are heavily handicapped in the matter of help from outside on account of their birth in this State which is falsely reported to be very munificent towards them.

My time is limited and therefore I shall only refer to another matter before I close and that is the condition of ryots as a result of the economic depression. It appears to me that the Government seems to be more inclined to afford greater protection to wild animals in the forests than to tame animals residing in the plains and contributing to the Exchequer. The economic depression has very severely hit the agricultural classes. They are also habitually indebted, Most of them are paying taxes out of their own pockets. I know my own instance; I pay not only the tax but also the maintenance charges of my estate from my own pocket. This must be the case with several agriculturists. No provision has been made in the budget for affording any relief to these poor suffering people. The Financial Secretary says that there has been a fall in the collections implying thereby that some remission of land tax has been made; but does it mean that Government have given up their claims against those defaulting tax payers and that no coercive steps would be taken for realising those arrears? No such assurance has been given by him. Instead of spending money usefully in these directions for the well-being and relief of the people the Government are wasting funds. The free feeding choultries are merrily going on, officers are imported on exorbitant salaries and allowances, new and unnecessary appointments on high salaries are created, the salaries of high officers are recklessly increased as personal favour and generally the cost of the administration is enormously increased and funds are withdrawn from the general Exchequer by creating new funds like the Kandukrishi fund. It appears to me, Sir, that this is wholly an unjustifiable policy. I was very glad when I read for the first time the Assembly Regulation to see that the State charities were not, as formerly one of the prohibited subjects and therefore I had every hope of turning down the unholy demand for this purpose. But I was not a little surprised to see, when I read the budget, that this item was transferred to the Devaswom Department and marked non-votable. I am sorry I cannot congratulate the Government on this unwise step. This is giving with one hand and taking away with the other. But it is in consonance with the present policy of Government of reducing these representative institutions into a farce.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, if the Government are sincere in their profession of anxiety to help the people of the State at a time of distress like the present, that sincerity is by no means reflected either in the Budget or in the Financial Secretary's speech. If the Financial Secretary is not in personal touch with affairs in the State or if he is not acquainted with the actual condition of the agricultural population, he must at least read the weekly Gazette and he will be able to see the large number of pages devoted to the notification of auction sales of property by the Land Revenue Department. Sir, what does it signify? Is it perverse refusal to pay or genuine inability to pay? I ask when are the Government going to realise the fact? It was suggested here that it is not customary to take into account the necessity for remission of taxes while framing the budget. I could understand that provided the conditions necessitating remission come about after the budget is framed and not before. But what is the condition of the people now? Why not consider the situation? The situation is clear. Added to the economic depression are the devastating floods. I say from actual experience that Government would be sinning if they do not take into account the condition of the ryots. You are compelled to make a substantial reduction of taxes. The Financial Secretary should have come gracefully forward with a budget estimate after making a 25 per cent. remission of the taxes. Though that has not been done, at least when the demand is put to the House, the Financial Secretary ought to readily accede to the request made by this side of the House.

Sir, as has been mentioned here, I also wish to refer to one or two unauthorised acts that the Financial Secretary has taken the liberty of doing to the detriment of the rights of this House. I may refer to the State Charities. In the Legislative Reforms Regulation, provision has been made allowing this House to discuss the State Charities. I also wish to point out that there is no mistaking the point at all because the prior Regulation provided for the exclusion of the State Charities from discussion here. It was with a full knowledge of that fact that it was included in the list of subjects that can be discussed under the present Regulation. And the advisers of His Highness the Maha Raja knew well what the implications of the non-exclusion of the State Charities from the list of excluded subjects would mean. Now, when the budget is put into our hands, it is said that some of this expenditure is analogous to Devaswom expenditure and has something to do with religious observances and so they have been transferred to the list of excluded subjects.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether from a classification of the preliminary budget heads, it is not sufficient to say that the question of State Charities be discussed here?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): That is what I am driving at. Simply because the Financial Secretary has taken that item to the head of Devaswom and marked it 'non-votable', that does not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

mean that we should be precluded from discussing it. I would request you, Sir, to give a ruling on this point as to whether it could be discussed or not. I hope you will allow us to discuss the matter and the item put to the vote of the House and see that the Financial Secretary's legerdemain does not succeed.

In regard to the Kandukrishi Fund newly created, I wish to offer a few remarks. I do not propose to go into the legal aspect of the matter. We know that certain allotments are made for the Palace. It is not clear whether the amount of Kandukrishi receipts included in the general revenues was not taken into account when the allotment was made for Palace expenditure. To me it appears—I am not making an assertion—that at the time when the Civil List of His Highness the Maharaja was fixed this matter might have been taken into account and it transpires that the public are deprived of the benefit of Rs. 1¾ lakhs by the arrangement now proposed.

Yesterday in answer to a question by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar relating to the creation of the Kandukrishi fund, the Financial Secretary stated that for the purpose of calculating the amount of land revenue and for determining the contribution due to the Devaswom fund, 40% of the Kandukrishi revenue was also taken into account. I would like to know whether this is taken into account merely for the purpose of calculating 40% of the amount of the land revenue or whether the 40% of the Kandukrishi revenue will be diverted to the Devaswom Fund from that revenue and the balance, namely 60 per cent. alone will go to the Kandukrishi Fund. My doubt is whether 40 per cent. of the Land Revenue inclusive of the Kandukrishi revenue will be entirely diverted from the public revenues alone independently of the Kandukrishi receipts. If so, it would be a clear loss to the public. It would be really unfair on the part of Government to divert from the general revenues of the State to the Devaswom Fund 40 per cent. of what according to the new arrangements does not form general revenues. I hope this matter will be fully understood by Government, and that 40 per cent. of the Rs. 1¾ lakhs of Kandukrishi receipts will be calculated and diverted to the Devaswom fund from the Kandukrishi receipts.

I wish to refer to one other important matter. The legislature is not consulted in matters in which it ought to be consulted. For instance, I refer to the appointment of the Settlement Officer. To me, it appears, there is nothing which Government can do which affects the people of the State more intimately than a resettlement. When an officer for formulating the principles on which resettlement is to be effected was appointed, Government did not think it proper to place the matter before this House and get its sanction.

(*A Voice*: There was no House then.)

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Whether there was a House or not, may I ask where was the emergency for appointing such an officer? Probably Section 32 of the Regulation empowers Government to authorise such expenditure, in cases of emergency. But

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

where was such an emergency I ask. I say if the thing can wait for 30 or 40 years after some of the taluks were settled, where was the emergency that prevented waiting for a few months more, placing the matter before this House, allowing it to have a full discussion and then see whether an officer should be appointed and if so what instructions should be given to him. I think it is scant courtesy shown to this House and it is really ignoring the rights of this House and the interests of the people. Government is certainly guilty of the charge of ignoring the existence of this Assembly when they appointed a settlement officer without consulting us. As Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai said, may I request the Government that when the settlement memorandum is published it may be placed before this House for a full discussion and further steps taken *only* after that. Re-settlement is the most important thing that affects the people of the country at large. The Financial Secretary's speech no doubt refers to some of the directions given to the settlement officer. I do not know what is being done by him. This is a time when people are groaning under economic distress. Is this the fittest time I ask for formulating the principles on which resettlement should be effected. A lot of enquiries has to be made by way of finding the cost of cultivation, yield from the land, the margin of profit a cultivator would get and so on. Is this the fittest time, I ask, for the appointment of a Special Officer for the purpose? These are matters to be attended to not in abnormal times.

Then I may refer to the appointment of an educational expert to enquire and report on educational reforms. No doubt the question of educational reforms was very often discussed by the Legislative Council. But the Government thought it fit to appoint in their own way an officer without consulting us. At least the Government could have elicited our opinion in the matter. What the Council urged was the appointment of a committee. The Government have appointed a particular individual, assisted by a subordinate of the Education Department and another who is connected with some private schools. We were not given an opportunity to consider the terms of reference either.

Then Sir, I also find that large sums of money are spent in many other ways without any reference to this House. There is a budget item of Rs. 1 lakh for the Chicago Exhibition; now nothing is heard of it. Was it spent or is it going to be spent I am at a loss to know. The Financial Secretary has not referred to that.

Again, Sir, very urgent works are neglected on the ground of want of funds. Some questions were asked in this House regarding the construction of certain important roads and bridges and the answer given was " want of funds ". But I find very unnecessary roads are being constructed even at this time of economic stringency. I think the old Road Board could be restored or at least the works taken up be included in the Budget and placed before the House for consideration. As for unnecessary works taken up, for instance, I may refer to the road

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

from the Trivandrum-Shencottah road to the Golf Links. To my knowledge there is a very fine road from the Trivandrum-Shencotta road to the Golf Links and there is absolutely no justification for constructing another road at a time like this. But a sum of about Rs. 25,000 is allotted for the construction of a new road from the T. S. road to the Golf Links. I cannot imagine what emergent necessity there is to incur that heavy expenditure at this period of depression. At a time when any number of roads and bridges have to be repaired and constructed, needs which are considered as non-essentials are attended to by Government. I can refer to many matters like that. But due to want of time, I pass on to another subject.

Coming on to the Pallivasal Scheme, as was mentioned by Mr. Karayalar yesterday, last year we were told that that scheme would cost about Rs. 36 lakhs and yield a substantial profit. This year, the scheme appears to have been revised and the cost comes to over Rs. 70 lakhs. Now the area to be served remains the same. In spite of double expenditure, it is now alleged that the scheme would be equally profitable. It is extremely difficult to understand the full implications and the financial result of the scheme. For that matter I would request you, Sir, to have the matter explained either by the Financial Secretary or by any other expert. My difficulty is this. Last time an impression was created in our minds that the scheme was thoroughly investigated. It was also said that the work would be executed in two stages. It was given out that everything was well understood and well thought out. Now it seems, that the scheme was not investigated then properly. There is a good deal of change in the scheme. I am not sure who investigated it a second time; according to whose recommendations changes are now sought to be effected; and whether at any time a competent officer dealt with the matter. So, I request Government to see that before they venture on a scheme of such magnitude, especially at a time like the present, they make sure that the investigations are satisfactorily and carefully made and the scheme started.

Yesterday, a suggestion was made by one of my friends on this side of the House that there was no necessity to transfer the leper asylum from where it is now. I refer to that matter lest that suggestion might weigh with Government. The need for the transfer of the leper asylum is very strongly felt. I know personally that the locality where the asylum exists now is a thickly populated area and that its existence is causing a great deal of harm to the inhabitants of the locality. I know for a fact that several persons in that neighbourhood are affected by that dreadful disease which could be accounted for only by the existence of this asylum there. This matter has been often brought to the notice of the Government, and eventually I believe the Government have now decided to shift it to some other place.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know who are the people affected by that?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): My friend ought to know that it is one of the contagious diseases.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it the member's view that the contagion will affect the neighbours also ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I was told by the Durbar Physician that it is not contagious.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I will only request Mr. Asan to have his information for himself and he may have the leper asylum in his taluk. I shall hold my opinion and insist on the leper asylum being shifted from its present site.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member know that I never said that it is not contagious ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Then I can't understand the difference. I said that it is contagious and he also says the same thing.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I only wish to know whether the member agrees with me.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I have said that the leper asylum should be shifted from its present location.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know, whether it is not sufficient to allow private people to open such asylums as is done near Colachel ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): We want a bigger institution run by Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I am very particular that the asylum should be shifted from Oolampara to an unobjectionable place.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does not the member see that my view also is the same, *viz.*, that it is contagious ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Anyhow, let it go to some place where it will not do harm.

The Assembly adjourned at 1-13 P. M. and reassembled at 2 P. M.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): മുന്നാണ്ടുകളിലെ പതിവനുസരിച്ച് ഈ ആണ്ടിലും ഈ സഭയുമ്പാകെ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ് അവതരിപ്പിക്കയും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ദീർഘമായ ഒരു പ്രസംഗത്തോടുകൂടി അതിനെ സഭയിൽ വിശദമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഞാനും ബഡ്ജറിനെ കുറെയെല്ലാം പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കുകയും ബഡ്ജറു് പ്രസംഗത്തെ വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും വായിച്ചു പഠിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു് തോന്നിയ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുന്നതായാൽ ഇതു് ഒരു കോടിരൂപയുടെ ബഡ്ജറാണു് എന്നു് സർട്ടിഫൈ ചെയ്യാൻ എനിക്കു് അധൈ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഉം തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കുറെകാലത്തിനുമുമ്പ് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ബഡ്ജറും ഒരു കോടീശ്വരന്റെ ബഡ്ജറല്ലായിരുന്നു. ഒരു ലക്ഷപ്രഭുവിന്റെ ബഡ്ജറായിട്ടാണ് ഇരുന്നിരുന്നതു്. ഉപ്പു് ഇനത്തിൽ സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നതായ ൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും പുകയില, കള്ളു്, കഞ്ചാവു്, കറുപ്പു്, എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു ലഭ്യമാകുന്ന ൪൦ ലക്ഷത്തിൽചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപായും കയറുമതി, ഇറക്കുമതി എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടുന്ന ൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപായും ഉൾപ്പടെ ൧൧ ലക്ഷത്തിൽചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപാ വരുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇതു് ഒരു കോടീശ്വരന്റെ ബഡ്ജറായിതീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

സർ, ലോകത്തിലെവിടെയും കാണപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും എല്ലാ ആളുകളേയും വിഷമിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും സുദീർഘവുമായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അധഃപതനാവസ്ഥയിൽ ഉപ്പു് ഇനത്തിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വരവു് കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ എല്ലാ ആളുകളും വയറുനിറയെ തൃപ്തിയായി ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു് തീർച്ചയാണു്. മടിശ്ശീലയിലും പണപ്പെട്ടിയിലും ധാരാളം പണമുണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ മാത്രമെ കള്ളു്, കഞ്ചാവു്, കറുപ്പു മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വരവു് കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു. പണക്കാർ ധാരാളമായി കയറുമതി ഇറക്കുമതി സാധനങ്ങളെ ക്രയവിക്രയം നടത്തിയെങ്കിൽമാത്രമെ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള ആദായം കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു. ലോകത്തിനു് പൊതുവായും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു് പ്രത്യേകമായും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവുനിമിത്തം കൃഷിക്കാർക്കുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ആശിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള ആദായംകിട്ടാതെ വന്നേക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. കോടീശ്വരന്മാരുടെ രാജ്യമെന്നു് പ്രശസ്തിസമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അമ്മേരിക്കയിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയും മറ്റുംനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയും അതു് കടക്കാരുടെ ഒരു രാജ്യമായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ലോകത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതും അനേകരാജ്യങ്ങളെ ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും സൂര്യൻ ഒരിക്കലും അസ്തമിക്കാത്തതുമായ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്സാമ്രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ അതു ഒരു ഭയങ്കരമായ അവസ്ഥയിലാണു് എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ അമ്മേരിക്ക, ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടുമുതലായ രാജ്യക്കാർ അധഃപതനാംമുഖം ഭയന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നിസ്സാരമായ ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂർരാജ്യത്തിന്റെനില അതിൽനിന്നു ഭിന്നമായിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലല്ലൊ. വനംവകയിൽ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. E. Varughese.]

നിന്ന ഫ ഫ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും മുദ്രപത്രത്തിൽനിന്ന ഫ ര ലക്ഷം രൂപായും രജിസ്ട്രേഷനിൽനിന്ന ര ലക്ഷം രൂപ യും മാത്രമാണ് ഒരു വക നിശ്ചിതമായ ആദായമായി ഗണിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടത്. ഈ ആദായവും സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തെ ഒട്ടുവളരെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന. പിന്നെ ശാശ്വതമായി കിട്ടുമെന്ന പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാവുന്നത് ലാൻഡ്റവന്യുവിൽനി ന്ന ന്യൂ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ആദായനികുതിയിൽനിന്നുമുള്ള ൻ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും മാത്രമാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തെ നിറ യ്ക്കുന്നവരിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടവരായ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ തല്ക്കാലസ്ഥിതി ആ ലോചിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ ഈ ന്യൂ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും അവരിൽനിന്ന ശ രിക്ക് ഈടാക്കണമെങ്കിൽ അവരെ ഞെക്കിപ്പിഴിഞ്ഞാൽ മാത്രമെ സാ ധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. അല്ലാതെ സന്മനസ്സോടും സന്തോഷത്തോടുംകൂടി ഇ ന്നത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിക്ക് അവർ അതിനു തയ്യാറാകുമെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നി ല്ല. ആദായനികുതിയിൽനിന്ന കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ അധികംഭാഗവും കൃഷി ക്കാരെക്കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതിയിട്ടുള്ളവയാണ്. നിശ്ചയമായി കിട്ടുമെ ന്ന പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു ഇനം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽനി ന്ന കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായനികുതി മാത്രമാണ്. മറ്റുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷകൾ ക്കൊക്കെ വ്യതിചലനം വരുന്നതാണ്. ഈ അവസ്ഥതന്നെ മുന്നോ ട്ടുപോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെനിലക്കും ഭേ ദഗതിവരാൻ ഇടയുണ്ട്. ലോകത്തിലെ സംഭവങ്ങളും ഓരോരാജ്യങ്ങ ളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന സംഗതികളും ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ മേല്പറഞ്ഞ എല്ലാഇനങ്ങൾക്കും വ്യതിചലനം ഉണ്ടാകാവുന്നതാണ്. അവസ്ഥകൾ ഈവിധമിരിക്കെ ഒരു കോടീശ്വരന്റെമട്ടിൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കുക യും അതനുസരിച്ച് വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണംചെയ്യാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യു ന്നത് ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വകമായിരിക്കുമോ? തിരുവിതാംകൂർ പല സ്ഥിതികൾ കൊണ്ടും ഒരു ഉന്നതമായനിലയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുകയാണ്. സാധാ രണമായി മുകളിൽ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് താഴെവീഴാൻ സൗകര്യമുള്ളത്. താഴെ നില്ക്കുന്നവക്ക് അങ്ങിനെ ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ടയാവശ്യമില്ല. ലോകം ഒട്ടുക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സംഭവങ്ങളെ വിവേകപൂർവ്വമായി വി വേചനംചെയ്ത് അതിനനുസരണമായ ഒരു വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണം ഉണ്ടാക്കു കയാണ് ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വകമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങിനെചെയ്യാതെ, എല്ലാം ശുഭമായിത്തന്നെ കലാശിക്കും സംഗതികൾക്ക് യാതൊരു കുഴപ്പവും ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല എന്നുള്ള സ്ഥിരനിശ്ചയത്തോടുകൂടി ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാ ക്കുന്നതു ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി ഇങ്ങിനെഇരിക്കുന്ന എങ്കിൽ വ്യക്തികളുടെസ്ഥിതി അതിൽനിന്ന ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ വ്യത്യസ്തമായിട്ടല്ല ഇരിക്കുന്നത്. കുറുമ്പ്രകിങ് ന്യ ൦ ൦ ശ്രപാ കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നകാലത്ത ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ പെപ്പർ രാജാക്കന്മാർ എന്ന പറയപ്പെട്ട ന്ന ഒരു ഇനക്കാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. റബ്ബറിൽനിന്നുള്ള ആദായം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നകാലത്തു് റബ്ബർ രാജാക്കന്മാർ എന്ന് ചിലരെ വിളിച്ചുവന്നു. ദിവസവും ശുദ്ധജലത്തിൽ കുളിക്കുന്നതിന് ൨ ൦ - ൦ ന്ന ൦ - ൦ നാഴികയ്ക്കു തന്റെ കുഞ്ഞുകുട്ടികളോടുകൂടി മോട്ടാറിൽ യാത്രചെയ്യ സുഖമായി കുളിയുംകഴിഞ്ഞു് മടങ്ങി വീട്ടിൽ എത്തുന്ന ഒരു ക്രമം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് അവരുടെനില ഒന്നു ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും പൊതുവെ വളരെ കഷ്ടം തോന്നുന്നതാണ്.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അവർ ഇപ്പോഴും കുളിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): തോർത്തു വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ ചക്രമില്ലാതെ വിഷമിച്ചേക്കുമെങ്കിലും അവർ കുളിക്കുന്നുണ്ട് എന്നുതന്നെയാണു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടതു്.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു നില ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ഉണ്ടായതു് അവരുടെ സാമർത്ഥ്യംകൊണ്ടോ ദുസ്സാമർത്ഥ്യംകൊണ്ടോ അല്ല. ലോകത്തിലുള്ള സംഭവഗതികളുടെ മാറ്റംകൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ വ്യക്തികളുടെ നിലക്കു മാറ്റം വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും നേരിടാമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ആയവ്യയഗണനയ്ക്കു തയ്യാറാകുമ്പോൾതന്നെ മനസ്സിൽ ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഈ സഭയുടെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഒരു സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. "ധനത്തിനു് വേലി ധർമ്മം" എന്നു് ഒരു മുദ്രാവാക്യമുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. പുരാതനകാലംമുതല്ക്കുതന്നെ ഭാരതീയർ ഇതിനെ മനസ്സിലാക്കി ധനമുള്ളവർ ധർമ്മനിഷ്ഠന്മാരായിട്ടു കാണപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മുദ്രാവാക്യമായ ഈ ധർമ്മത്തിനു് ഒരുതരത്തിൽ പ്രാധാന്യം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും അതു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ധർമ്മത്തിൽനിന്നും അല്പം വ്യത്യസ്തമായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നതു്. ദരിദ്രരെ (destitutes) പരിപാലിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണു ധർമ്മം. പ്രായാധിക്യംകൊണ്ടും അംഗഭംഗംകൊണ്ടും അവനവനു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. E. Varughese]

ത്തിയില്ലാത്തതൈവീകസംഭവങ്ങാംമൂലവുംമറും കാലക്ഷോപത്തിനു യാതൊരു നിവൃത്തിയുമില്ലാത്ത അനേകംപേർ തിരുവിതാംക്രിലുണ്ടെന്നു എനിക്കു നല്ല ബോധ്യമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു് ഈ സഭയിലുള്ള മറു സ്നേഹിതന്മാക്കും ബോധ്യമായിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ളതിൽ സംശയത്തിനു വകയില്ല. അവരെ പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരു ചക്രംപോലും ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നീക്കിവച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. മറു വ്യക്തികൾക്കു വേണ്ട സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുള്ള ചുമതലപോലെ ഈ സാധുക്കളുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു ധർമ്മം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ മേലാൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറുകളിൽ ഒരു തുക ദരിദ്രക്ഷേമത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനു മാർഗ്ഗം വയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി ബഡ്ജറുകാര്യങ്ങളെ വിട്ടിട്ടു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിലിരിക്കുന്ന മറൊരു ഭാഗത്തെപ്പറ്റികൂടി സ്വല്പം വിമർശിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംക്രിലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ രാഷ്ട്രീയാന്തരീക്ഷം കാർമ്മേഘങ്ങളാൽ ആവൃതമായിരിക്കുകയാണു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ സംസാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ഇവിടെ സംയുക്തസമ്മേളനം കൂടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ, നമ്മുടെ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സന്ദേശത്തിന്റെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങൾ എന്റെ ഓർമ്മയിൽവരുന്നു. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ വിദേശയാത്രചെയ്തു് പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും തിരുവിതാംക്രിലെ പ്രജകളോടുള്ള വാത്സല്യവും സ്നേഹവും ആർദ്രതയുംവിചാരിച്ചു് അവിടത്തെ ആത്മാവു്, ഈ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണാൻ പാടില്ലെങ്കിലും ഈ സഭാമുമ്പാകെ ഉണ്ടെന്നു ധരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുണമെന്നു് ആ സന്ദേശത്തിൽ വിവരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, his time is up.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Varughese, your time is up.

MR. N E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Sir, please allow me two minutes more.

PRESIDENT: No. Your time is up.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, on a perusal of the preliminary budget and the speech of the Financial Secretary in introducing the same, I am convinced that I should congratulate the Financial Secretary for the practical thoroughness with which he has estimated the revenue and expenditure for the next financial year. Last year this time, Sir, he assured the members of the then Legislative

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Council that the current year will close with a small revenue surplus of Rs. 1,15,000. Though there are variations in his estimate of revenue and expenditure under various items, I am happy to see that the actuals of this year will show a revenue surplus of Rs. 1,17,000, which is two thousand rupees more than he has estimated. Sir, one of the most difficult and important tasks of any Financial Secretary is to estimate at least approximately the revenue and expenditure for a certain future period and this important task of the Financial Secretary becomes more difficult in these days, when stability and steadiness are absent from the entire economic world. The satisfactory results of this year are undoubtedly due to the carefulness, experience and, I should say, the over-caution of the Financial Secretary in regard to the financial and the general economic conditions of the State.

Those of us, Sir, who are very intimately studying the financial position of this country cannot escape noticing the foot-note at the bottom of page 7 of the Budget, which appears year after year without any modification. From a strictly accounting point of view, to value the securities, even if they are gilt edged, at their face value, when the market shows a downward tendency, is most misleading. In fact the securities, even the gilt edged ones, should be valued for the books either at their face value or the market value, whichever is less. This is the accepted principle in the science of accountancy. But for years, Sir, our clever Financial Secretaries were calculating the value of these securities at their face value, although the market value was much less and thus we were having inflated assets in the budgets. I must frankly admit, Sir, that the Financial Secretary this year deserves greatly the gratefulness of the country for watching and studying the movements of the gilt edged markets and for effecting a profitable conversion, which he had detailed in his speech.

Turning to the next year, we find that the Financial Secretary estimates a revenue of a little over Rs. 230 lakhs and an expenditure of little over Rs. 229 lakhs and he anticipates a small surplus of Rs. 79,000. From October 1929 onwards, Sir, the whole world has been passing through an acute period of economic crisis, which has hit us very badly in our economic activities. Now, there are signs of these conditions slowly settling down and I consider that the estimates of the Financial Secretary are on the safe side. I am confident Sir, that provided the estimates are not seriously upset or disturbed by uncontrollable features, the budget for 1109 will be a real contribution to the financial stability of the State.

Sir, the neglect or the curtailment of the social services in the name of economy has always been held to be foolish by the far-seeing citizen. Good physical and mental health is the real bulwark of any nation and its preservation has been one of the most high and cherished ambitions of every progressive Government. So I take this opportunity, Sir, to associate myself with my friends who have congratulated the Government for bringing together the two isolated departments of Public Health and Sanitation under one head and I am

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

certain, Sir, that this is going to be the backbone in our vast national system of health defence.

My friend, Mr. Karayalar, yesterday raised the question of the financial side of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric scheme. Sir, last year, when this scheme was put up before the last Legislative Council, I advocated the scheme. It is true the Travancore Government has undertaken many capital and productive schemes in this State. We all know that a huge amount of money is spent on the Kodayar Project for the agricultural development of South Travancore alone. One peculiarity, which I pointed out last year with regard to this Pallivasal Electric scheme, was that it was conducive to the two great aspects o our economic life, that is, the development of agriculture and industriesf Sir, there is no doubt that those who have really studied the economic position of North Travancore must agree that it is replete with great industrial raw materials. I understand that one of the great cotton magnates of Bombay has almost decided to open a cotton mill at Alwaye and I need not say to this House what that means. It means huge employment for our unemployed people. It means a huge income to the Government by way of income tax and also cheap clothes for our poor people. If the Government wills, there is the great prospect of opening a rubber factory in Travancore, in any of the districts where there are rubber plantations, for producing tubes and toys. Then there is the prospect of making coir ropes and other things out of the coir, which is now exported to places like Rangoon and Calcutta, where big factories are situated. These factories pay duty on the coir imported and manufacture coir ropes to be supplied to the world markets. If you want great agricultural and industrial results, electricity will be most useful.

Another factor of economic development is that we want really easy means of communication, not only for human transportation, but for cargo transportation. It will be easy, when this scheme is worked, to run a light railway connecting the Cochin Harbour and Alleppey by means of electricity. That will be cheap, and perhaps a time may come with the electrification of Quilon, when the whole coast can be connected by light railways, with which some of us are familiar.

Mr. Karayalar raised the financial question in this way, that last year the Government asked only for a provision of Rs. 36·75 lakhs. As a businessman, I should say, Sir, that if this huge and gigantic Hydro-Electric scheme can be finished with Rs. 36·75 lakhs, it is a first class business proposition which anybody will be willing to take up. I am not at all surprised that Government now come forward with a request for another Rs. 40 lakhs. For myself, Sir, if this scheme would go to the industrialisation of North Travancore and also for the development of the punja cultivation, I think we need not be surprised even if at a later stage, say next year, the Government demand from us another thirty lakhs of rupees and make it a crore of rupees. I will be the last man to have any surprise even if the Government bring a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

supplementary demand or the Financial Secretary asks for another thirty lakhs of rupees for the completion of the scheme. From the financial point of view, I must say that this is going to be one of the best productive schemes for the Government and also for the economic good of the whole country.

Sir, another important point I wish to touch upon is the problem which I have been moving in this House since 1928—that is, the most important problem of separating Customs from Excise. I do not want to spend much time on the elaboration of my ground which I have already put forward to Government with other responsible non-official members. I remember, Sir, that my friend Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai at the last session of the last Legislative Council raised this question and he supported me.

Sir, I believe firmly that, if we had really a responsible officer, trained in customs administration, as the head of this Department, we would not have lost entirely our markets in New Zeland, Canada, America and Europe (Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai : *Hear, hear*). I have authentic reports from Canada that the representation, on behalf of Travancore, at the Ottawa Conference reached there very late, so that we could not have our voice heard there. Sir, as it is, who is going to care for this small State of Travancore? The Tariff commission in New Zeland blindly raised the duty on our coir mats and matting. Sir, which officer of our Government knows it? Who cares to know it? I do not want to cast any reflection on any particular officer of the State. The Excise Commissioner is saddled with too many things now. He has to look after Excise, Salt, Tobacco and Customs; and, naturally, we cannot expect him to do full justice to this most important branch of the administration, on which the Government will have to depend hereafter for a decent portion of their revenue. We all know, Sir, that the income from Abkari is bound to go down year after year. Therefore, Government have to turn their attention to the development of Customs. I submitted a memorandum before the Economic Development Board, which accepted it and forwarded it to Government with their recommendation. Sir, I have always been advocating the complete separation of Customs from Excise. But, considering the present financial position of Government, I have brought my demand down to the appointment of a special customs officer, of the status of an Assistant Excise Commissioner, but in a separate cadre. That officer will be the Customs officer at Alleppey and our Chief Customs Officer in charge of the Sea Customs throughout the State. It is enough if he is under the Excise Commissioner who may be termed, in future, the Commissioner for Excise and Customs. An officer of the Department may be selected and sent up for training, to Bombay or Calcutta, for two or three months. Sir, this proposition will not entail any big expenditure on the side of the Government.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Does the member want the Customs Officer to work under the Excise Commissioner?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : Yes, but under a separate cadre.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Would the member recommend the constitution of a Tariff Board?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): No; it is very expensive; there is not much need for a Tariff Board now.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): Sir, let me, at the very outset, thank the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja for nominating me, and my sister Miss Gnanasikamony, to the Sri Mulam Assembly. This I consider is a great honour done to the women of Travancore, and is quite in consonance with the spirit of the constitutional reforms inaugurated by His Highness the Maha Raja. Personally, I deem it a great privilege to be associated in the work of the reformed legislature and I request you, Sir, to be kind enough to convey to His Gracious Highness my feelings of profound gratitude for nominating me as a member of this House.

Coming to the Budget, I wish to speek a few words on some of the features of the administration so far as thay relate to women. I hasten to congratulate the Financial Secretary on his surplus Budget despite the economic depression through which we are passing and despite the larger demands on Government for various increased items of expenditure. I find that no nation-building department has been starved. On the other hand, increased provisions have been made for Agriculture, Industries, Education, Medical, Public Health and Co-operative Departments. This is indeed a matter for commendation.

The Department of Education is one in which, I am happy to note, qualified women are, in recent years, being appointed in larger numbers. For instance, the recent appointment of two distinguished lady graduates, as Professor and Assistant Professor, respectively, in the Maha Raja's College of Science for men, is a matter very much appreciated by women. That shows that, when qualified women are forthcoming, sex will not stand in the way of their being appointed in the higher grade of service; and I take this opportunity to thank the Government for the far-reaching nature of the policy they are adopting in this matter. But, I may be permitted to suggest that this broad and liberal policy may be extended also to the lower rungs of the ladder. I refer, for instance, to the appointment of lady clerks and lady typists in the offices of the Inspectress and Assistant Inspectresses, where, I understand, men are, even now, occupying most of these posts. In view of the fact that, at present, there is no dearth for qualified women, I hope these posts will eventually be set apart for women.

Coming to the Medical and the Public Health Departments, I am exceedingly happy that the Medical Department is now presided over by a distinguished member of our sex. As far as I know, she is the first lady legislator in Travancore, and I believe the whole of India. One suggestion that I wish to make, in regard to this Department, is that more lady doctors ought to be appointed. With regard to the Public Health Department, it is a matter for gratification that the activities of the Department are proposed to be extended. Propaganda for the prevention of preventable diseases, is urgently needed, more

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

among women than among men and too much attention cannot be devoted to this important subject.

With regard to maternity and child welfare, a scheme for vigorous propaganda is highly necessary, and, therefore I feel that larger allotments could have been made for that, provision being also made for the Health Week Celebrations and Baby Welfare Centres.

The development of the Department of Industries is also being watched with considerable interest by the people of our country. I am glad to find that, in addition to the Sales Depot at Trivandrum, another Sales Depot has been opened at Ootacamund under the charge of a lady. I hope that these two institutions will serve as a medium of advertisement for the industrial products of our country. I wish to make one suggestion with regard to this Department. I find that no provision has been made for the improvement and encouragement of home industries among women. A special institution, for imparting instruction in home industries to women and for the sale of the articles produced therein, will go a long way to improve the economic condition of many a middle class family in Travancore.

In regard to the Co-operative Department, in the interest of the spread of the co-operative movement among women, the appointment of a lady Co-operative Inspector will go a great way in increasing the number of women's co-operative societies.

May I also plead, Sir, for the introduction of some scheme whereby educated women may be more largely employed in Government service than at present ?

In conclusion, I wish to congratuate the Financial Secretary on the financial position of the Government as disclosed by the Budget.

MR. PACODE A NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I will begin my remarks on the Budget by saying that the wolf is at the door, and the Game Warden too is there. On going through the Budget Estimate, along with the speech of the Financial Secretary explaining the Budget, I am really disappointed to see that the Government is content by merely plodding along the beaten track. I fail to see, in the speech of Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai, even the remotest trace of any general statement on the financial condition of the State, or that the Budget was framed and adjusted with reference to the prevailing economic condition in the country. I do not find, in the Financial Secretary's speech, anything besides the figures I find in the preliminary edition of the Budget. I do not know whether the Financial Secretary has any explanation to offer for that. There is no general statement of the financial policy of Government. Sir, the appalling fall in the prices of agricultural products and the great increase in the purchasing value of the rupee and the great agricultural indebtedness of the people, these all-important matters do not seem to have been taken note of by the Government in framing the Budget. Coming from one of the constituencies from the south, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the very low price of paddy now obtaining in Nanjinad, which is the most important

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai.]

paddy-producing district in Travancore. On account of the low price, the yield is not sufficient even to cover the dues to Government, land tax and water cess. The price of cocoanut also has gone down very very low. These facts do not seem to have been taken notice of by the Financial Secretary. On the other hand, huge provisions have been made, at the expense of these poor ryots who form the backbone of the country, for big schemes of doubtful utility. In the Budget for 1109, provision is made, to the tune of nineteen lakhs of rupees, under the head 'capital expenditure'.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam*): May I know from the member the allotment, in the Budget, for minor irrigation?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I will come to that; I am now dealing with 'capital expenditure'. What I want to bring to the notice of Government is that in undertaking such schemes as the Water Supply or the Hydro-Electric Scheme, the method adopted by all civilised Governments is to float a loan and raise the necessary funds for the purpose. Even in the neighbouring State of Cochin, to meet a capital outlay, they have floated a loan. But in Travancore what is done to raise the necessary funds for such expenditure is to divert a portion of the general revenues, at the expense of the tax-payer who is already over-burdened. Another point I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that of late there is a tendency to allot expenditure for increasing the amenities of the town at the expense of the mofussil ryots. No doubt, if there are sufficient funds, our towns may be electrified, and water supply may be introduced. These things are no doubt very good. It is very pleasant indeed to sit under the electric fan. But when I think of the suffering of the ryots in the mofussil, every breath of wind I get here is the last breath of the suffering ryot. It will be very pleasant to walk along the streets of Trivandrum, tarred and cemented, under the canopy of a flood of light from electric lamps. That is all very good. But we should understand that that is done at the expense of the poor tax-payer in the mofussil. I do not grudge such schemes being started. But that should be done, as I have already observed, by raising funds by means of a loan.

Coming to the receipt side of the budget, I find that there is absolutely no intention on the part of Government for the remission of any portion of the land revenue. Some relief to the agriculturist is called for at the present time. But there is no indication of any remission in the budget. The forecast under land revenue is Rs, 36·10 lakhs which is Rs. 16,000 more than the revised estimate for the current year. That shows that there is absolutely no intention to grant any relief to the agricultural population. That is ominous indeed. If Government were to proceed at this rate, they will reach a stage when the people would have been bled white and it will be physically impossible for the people to make any more payment.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Another remission of a levy which is urgently called for in these days of economic depression is the total abolition of the market dues, or at least a suspension of the same during the period of depression. This impost falls heavily upon a particular section of the population who can ill-afford to pay this tax. We all know that the price of all agricultural products has gone down very much. Cocoanut and paddy now fetch only one-fourth of what they fetched in normal times. Just imagine a man with a head load of tapioca or cocoanut going to the market to sell the thing and expecting to meet all this expenses with the sale proceeds. This man is called upon to pay a portion, before he has sold the thing, to the contractor of the market by way of toll. This impost is a very heavy burden upon the middle-class people who are now hard hit on account of the economic depression. It will be very merciful if Government either abolish this tax or suspend it during the period of depression. One significant fact that I find in the Budget Estimate is that under receipts which are of the nature of voluntary payments, such as Excise, Forest and Income Tax, there is a steady fall from year to year. But a tax like land revenue is a compulsory payment. Government will take coercive steps against defaulters, and whether they will or not, people are forced to pay this tax. But that is not the case for Excise, Forest or Income tax. That shows that the economic depression is very bad and it is high time that the Government think of some bold steps to increase the purchasing power of the people and to grant some relief to them.

Then coming to the expenditure side, one cannot fail to notice the heavy cost of administration. The cost of administration is out of all proportion to the real benefit conferred by the Government. One of the fundamental principles of finance is that by minimum expenditure the maximum benefit should be derived. But that is not what I find so far as our finance is concerned. Year after year, new appointments are being created to provide for particular persons so much so one is constrained to remark that this Government is nothing but an employment bureau. The function of Government is something more than this. It is not merely to provide employment for certain people. Again taking the two departments of Agriculture and Industries, I have to remark that these two departments are two huge white elephants. I would just refer to page 114 of the Budget Estimate. I find under detailed account 21A there is one Director, one Assistant Director, one Entomologist, one Mycologist, one Bio-chemist, one Assistant Chemist, and so on and so forth. I am really at a loss to see what all these experts are doing. I do not know how many more there will be in the years to come.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു കല്പിച്ചരുളിച്ചെയ്ത പ്രധാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും ശ്രീമൂലം തിരുനാൾ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിലെ പരിപാവനാമധേയത്തെ പ്രഖ്യാതമാക്കുന്നതുമായ ശ്രീമൂലം അസംബ്ളിയിൽ പ്രസ്തുതം അധ്യക്ഷം അധ്യക്ഷത

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

രെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നതിനായി എന്നെയും മിസ്റ്റർ കേശവൻശാസ്ത്രിയേയും നിയമിച്ചതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ നേർക്കുള്ള നന്ദിയേയും വാത്സല്യത്തേയും ഒന്നാമതായി ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. അത്യധികമായ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംനിമിത്തം വന്നിച്ച രാജ്യങ്ങൾപോലും വരവുചെലവുകളെ വ്യവസ്ഥപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു ചെറുരാജ്യമായ ഇവിടത്തെ വരവുചെലവുകളെ തുലനംചെയ്തു ഒരു ചെറിയതുക ലാഭവും കാണിക്കത്തക്ക രീതിയിൽ അടുത്ത വർഷത്തിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റു തയ്യാറാക്കിയ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയെ ഞാൻ അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന തിരുവനന്തപുരം വാട്ടർ വർക്ക്സും മരാമത്തുപണികളും തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും പള്ളിവാസൽ ഹൈഡ്രോ ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് സ്കീംമുതലായ പദ്ധതികൾ തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും പണമനുവദിച്ചും വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ചില നൂതനപദ്ധതികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലുംപണം കുറവുചെയ്യാതെ കൂടുതൽ അനുവദിച്ചും ഉള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റു രൂപീകരണത്തിൽഗവണ്മെന്റു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ധൈര്യം ഏറ്റവും സ്തുത്യർഹംതന്നെ.

നാട്ടിലെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനസ്ഥിതിനിമിത്തമുള്ള ദോഷഫലങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ അടിത്തട്ടിൽ ഉള്ളവരാണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഈ പട്ടണത്തിൽതന്നെയും അടുത്തകാലത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വന്നിച്ച വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമൂലം കയറിക്കിടക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കുടിലുകൾപോലും നശിച്ച് അലഞ്ഞുനടക്കാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുള്ള സ്ത്രീകൾ കുട്ടികൾ പുരുഷന്മാർ ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള കൂലിവേലക്കാരാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ തടിച്ചുകൊഴുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന മറു സമുദായക്കാരുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികളെ നിലനിറുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ അത്യാവശ്യസമയത്തു് അധ്യക്ഷനവർകളും ദയാവതിയായ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മഹാമ്മയും സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ആഹാരം കൊടുക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിലും അവരെ സൌകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കുടിപാർപ്പിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിലും കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അനുകമ്പ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരിക്കലും മറക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സ്മൃതിയാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ എനിക്ക് അത്യധികമായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ അധഃകൃതരായ സാധുക്കൾക്കു കയറി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക്കിടക്കുന്നതിനു ഭൂമിയില്ല. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ ഉദാരമതികളായചില മാന്യന്മാരുടെ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണ് അവർ കുടിലുകൾകെട്ടി താമസിച്ചുവന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംമൂലം ആ കുടിലുകളെല്ലാം നശിച്ചുപോകുകയും വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ ഉപദ്രവം തീർന്നശേഷം ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ചെന്നതിൽ ആ വസ്തുഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ കുടിലുകൾ കെട്ടാൻ അനുവാദം തരാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു. തൽനിമിത്തം ആ സാധുക്കൾ കുടിലുകെട്ടി താമസിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാതെ റൌണ്ടിൽ അലഞ്ഞുനടക്കുന്നു. ഈ റൌണ്ടിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറുപയോഗത്തിനു് ആവശ്യമില്ലാതെ അനവധിഏക്കർസ്ഥലം ഉണ്ടു്. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുവരുന്ന വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ താമസിച്ചുവരുന്ന ബംഗ്ലാവിനുചുറും അൻപതും നൂറും ഏക്കർസ്ഥലം വെറുതെ കിടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്, ബംഗ്ലാവിരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നവരുടെ മറ്റു സൌകര്യത്തിനും ഉള്ള സ്ഥലംനീക്കി ബാക്കിയുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തിൽ കുറേശ്ശയായി കാളനിയായിട്ടു ഈ സാധുക്കൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ അതു വളരെ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായിരിക്കും. ഗസ്റ്റ്ഹൌസിൽ ൭൦ ഏക്കർസ്ഥലം കാടുപിടിച്ചു വെറുതെ കിടക്കുന്നു. അതുകൂടാതെ ബാർട്ടൺഹിൽ, ചാറ്റ്ഫീൽഡ്സായ്പു് താമസിച്ചിരുന്ന ബംഗ്ലാവു്, കമാൻറർഇൻചീഫ് താമസിക്കുന്നസ്ഥലം, പഴയ പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണർ താമസിച്ചിരുന്ന സ്ഥലം എന്നിങ്ങനെ പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുംഗവണ്മെൻറുവക സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതെകിടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കാളനികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി സാധുക്കളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങനേയുള്ളസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു പത്തുസെൻറുവീതം അധഃകൃതർക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. അവിടെ ഓരോ കുടിലുകെട്ടുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതായ ഓല, മുള, മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുക്കണം.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): സായ്പന്മാർ താമസത്തിനായി ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഇത്രവളരെ ഭൂമി ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതെ കിടക്കുന്നു എന്നാണൊ മെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നതു്?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): അതിനേപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. നാട്ടിന്റെ നട്ടെല്ലായ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഈ പ്രജകൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു് കുടിപാർക്കുന്നതിനുപോലും സ്ഥലമില്ലാതിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ വിദേശികളുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യത്തിനായിട്ടുമാത്രം ഇത്രവളരെസ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമെന്താണെന്നാണു ഞാൻ സഭയെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നതു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു അധഃകൃതക്കു് പുതുവൽഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അവർ പട്ടണങ്ങൾക്കടുത്തു സ്ഥലം അപേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലും വനപ്രദേശങ്ങൾക്കടുത്തുമാണു സ്ഥലംകൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതു്. തൊഴിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സ്ഥലം കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ല. തൊഴിൽകിട്ടുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അവക്കു സ്ഥലം പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : ഇതുവരെ പതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെല്ലാം സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണോ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): മിക്കവാറും സൌകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലല്ലകിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. തൊഴിൽഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ പട്ടിണിയായിപ്പോകും. തൊഴിൽ കിട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പാക്കാൻ സൌകര്യമില്ലാതിരുന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിയർപ്പുതുള്ളികൊണ്ടു തടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സമുദായക്കാക്കു സുഖമുണ്ടാകുകയില്ല. അതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു ശരിയായ പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഒട്ടും അമാന്തിക്കരുതെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇപ്പോൾ അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗസംരക്ഷകനു എത്രയും അധികാരങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകൻ എന്ന പേരിൽ ഉള്ള പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം അസിസ്റ്റൻറു രജിസ്ട്രാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് അധഃകൃതർക്കു രക്ഷയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നില്ല. ൪൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ കൺസർവേറരുടെ കീഴിലായി, ഒരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻറെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിലും സംരക്ഷണയിലും ഇരിക്കുന്നതും സാധുക്കൾക്കു പോയി പുല്ലുക്കുവാനൊ വിറകു ശേഖരിക്കുവാനൊ അനുവദിക്കാത്തതും സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്തതുമായ റിസർവ് വനങ്ങളിലെ വന്യമൃഗങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു വാർഡൻ അഫ്ഗെയിംസ് എന്നൊരു ഉദ്യോഗം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പത്തുലക്ഷം ജനസംഖ്യയുള്ള അധഃകൃതരെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻറെ സ്ഥാനം പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാരുടെ ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറിൻേറതു മാത്രമാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥിതി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ മഹാരാജാവ് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉത്തമസന്താനങ്ങളും നാട്ടിൻറെ നട്ടെല്ലുമായ പത്തുലക്ഷത്തോളം വരുന്ന ജനതതിയെക്കാൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ അനുകമ്പക്കു കൂടുതൽ പാത്രീഭവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒഷ്ടമൃഗങ്ങളാണ് എന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : വന്യമൃഗങ്ങൾ കുറെ-ക്കൂടി ഭയങ്കരങ്ങൾ അല്ലേ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : അതെ. ലാൻഡ്‌ റവന്യൂ, വ്യവസായം, കൃഷി, പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ വകവയ്ക്കാത്തവിധം സ്ഥാനവലിപ്പമുള്ള ഒരു അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനാണ് ആവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇന്നത്തെ സംരക്ഷകൻറെ നില ഉയർത്തി അതിനുതക്ക അധികാരവും കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭാഗത്തു നിന്നും മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻറെ ശുപാർശയും അഭിലാഷനയും വലിയ മേലധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ അവഗണിച്ചു എന്നു വരാം. അഥവാ അങ്ങിനെ അവഗണിക്കുന്നില്ല എങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും, പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാർ, സംരക്ഷകൻറെ ശുപാർശകളെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു അവയ്ക്കനുസരണമായ പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു ആ പദ്ധതി അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറെ ആഫീസിൽ നിന്നും വെളിയിൽ പോകുന്നതിനു എത്ര കാലം വേണ്ടിവരും? അധഃകൃതരെ മനുഷ്യരാക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു മനഃപൂർവ്വമായ സന്നദ്ധതയുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു എങ്കിലും അതിൻറെ ലക്ഷണങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇതുവരെ കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): ഏതാനും അധഃകൃതരെ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു ഇപ്പോൾ പിരിച്ചു വിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : അതെനിക്കറിയാം. ആ ഭാഗത്തിലേക്കു വരുന്നു.

യഥാർത്ഥ സ്നേഹത്തോടുകൂടി പദ്ധതികൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചു അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നതിനു തക്ക ത്രാണിയും പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വിശാലവീക്ഷണവും അധികാരവും അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനു ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു നാന്നൂറു മുതൽ എഴുന്നൂറു വരെയുള്ള ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ആകെ ജനസംഖ്യയിൽ അഞ്ചിലൊരു ഭാഗമായ പത്തു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷകൻ എന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ ഈ ശമ്പളം ഒട്ടും തന്നെ കൂടുതൽ അല്ല. അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ലേബർ കമ്മീഷണർ ആക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടും വിരോധമില്ല. ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ഈ അസംബ്ലിയിൽ ഒരു സീറുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ എല്ലാ സ്ഥലത്തും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും താമസിക്കുന്ന അധഃകൃതർ അത്യധികമായ കഷ്ടതകൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അതുകൊ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

ണ്ടു അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം അധികാരം കൊടുക്കണം. അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടതായ ഒരു പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. കാളനികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്ന പദ്ധതി പഴയ കോ ആപ്പറേറിവ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ രൂപികരിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഏല്പിച്ചതു ഫൻറൻ-ൽ ആണ്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു മൌനം ഭീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും തന്നെ ആശാസ്യമല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനു് അയച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയൊ പഴയതിനെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു അധഃകൃതക്കു രക്ഷ ഉണ്ടാകത്തക്ക രീതിയിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുകയോ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പദ്ധതി രൂപികരണത്തിനുള്ള ആലോചനയിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ അധഃകൃതരോടു ക്ലൂതൽ അനുകമ്പയുള്ള മാന്യമെമ്പറന്മാരെചേർത്തു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അതിലേക്കു ഒരു സ്കീം തയ്യാറാക്കി അതിനെ ഉടൻ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു യത്നിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനു ഒരു സ്റ്റാഫിനെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജറിൽ കുറെ പണം അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ പണം എന്തു വേലയ്ക്കാണു ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു് ഇവിടെ കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇഞ്ചിനിയർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സ്റ്റാഫിനെ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ വേല എന്താണെന്നു ക്രൂടി നിശ്ചയിക്കുകയും ആ വേല നടത്തുന്നതിനു പണം അനുവദിക്കുകയുമാണു ചെയ്തു വരാറുള്ളതു്. അതുപോലെ അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകൻറെ സ്റ്റാഫിൽകാണിക്കാത്തതു കൊണ്ടു അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു മനസ്സിലില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സംഗതിയാണെന്നു ബോധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഇതിനുംപുറമെ വേറൊരു സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിലെ പ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചാണു്. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു കല്പിച്ചു അനുവദിച്ചു തന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ശ്രീമൂലം അസംബ്ലിയും സ്റ്റേറുകൌൺസിലും കൂടിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സുദിനത്തിൽ അധഃകൃതരായ ഒട്ടു വളരെ മലയാളം സ്കൂൾ അധ്യാപകന്മാരെ എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നു പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടു എന്നുള്ള വ്യസനകരമായ സംഗതിയാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. അധഃകൃതരെ സഹായിക്കുകയും ക്രൂടുതൽപ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന എന്നുള്ള വിധത്തിൽ ക്രൂടിയിരിക്കുന്ന

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ കൂട്ടമായി പിരിച്ചു വിട്ട സംഗതി ഓക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഒരു കളങ്കമായി തന്നെ തീരുന്നതാണ്.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): പിരിച്ചുവിട്ട ആളുകൾക്കു പകരം അധികൃതരെ തന്നെയാണൊ നിയമിച്ചതു്? അതല്ല വേറെ ആളുകളെയാണൊ?

MR. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : ആരെയും നിയമിച്ചില്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): എത്ര പേരെയാണു് പിരിച്ചു വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്?

MR. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ൮൬ പേരെ പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടു.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): അതിനു കാരണമെന്താണു്?

MR. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : അധികൃതരെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നു ഓർഡർ കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഓർഡർ കൊണ്ടു പിരിച്ചു. എന്താണു കാരണമെന്നു അറിയാൻ പാടില്ല.

∴ ൧൯൫൦-൧൯൫൧ ഈ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ ആക്ടിംഗ് ആയിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളവരെയല്ലാതെ നിയമിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നു മുമ്പു ഇരുന്ന ഡയറക്ടർ ഓർഡർ ഇട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ ഉത്തരവിനു ശേഷം അഞ്ചു പേരെ കൂടി നിയമിച്ചു. അവരെയും പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടു.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Sir, it has been a more or less common practice to preface the general criticism of the budget estimates either by congratulating the Financial Secretary for ushering in a surplus budget or by condemning him for presenting a deficit budget. Members on this side of the House who believe that the prosperity of the country has been assured if, by manipulation of figures *i. e.*, by over-estimating the receipts on the one hand and by reducing ruthlessly the allotments for the essential nation-building activities, the proposals of Government result in a surplus, however small, praise the Financial Secretary as a saviour; while those who look upon a deficit budget as a national calamity assert that the Financial Secretary is a pessimist and that it would not have been impossible with the resources available to one skilled in financial gymnastics so to contrive matters as to produce a balance budget. My sympathies are with the Financial Secretary whose responsibility for the budget estimates is only vicarious and even shadowy, as well as with the Government who, like everybody else in the world to-day, strives to make both ends meet and like creditor nations conceal the possibilities of impending insolvency partly by camouflage, partly by conferences, and largely by purposeless discussion of things that do not really matter. It is not as a result of ignorance or callousness that no reference has been made in the Financial Secretary's speech to the floods which devastated the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

whole country recently. It is only symptomatic of the manner in which budgets are framed without any reference to the conditions obtaining among the tax-payers. The Financial Secretariat brings a completely detached mind to bear on the preparation of the budgets.

The one acid test by which to judge the merit of the budget is to examine how far the rosy picture exhibited in the budget approximates to conditions obtaining in the country. The Financial Secretary and the Government are no doubt aware of the existence of the economic depression for they attribute to it the fall in revenues under certain heads; but they would seem to have prophetic insight into the future when it is seen that, in forecasting the receipts for 1109, they anticipate better results. One fundamental defect in the budget is that it does not reflect to any extent the condition of the people and another is that no constructive proposals are envisaged to help to alleviate the prevalent distress due to the phenomenal fall in the values of agricultural produce of all kinds.

As a result of the operation of world-causes for which the Financial Secretary cannot be blamed, of which he may not be unaware and over which the Travancore Government have no control, the economic condition of the people has been tremendously impoverished during the last two or three years. The cumulative effect of months, rather years, of fall in prices has hit the average man and woman very hard. Unemployment of the educated middle-classes is on the increase and the situation has been aggravated by the circumstance that the steady and continued depreciation in the value of raw materials has rendered even the ancient industry of agriculture unremunerative. There is besides, the problem of agricultural indebtedness to which I will refer presently. In that monumental work, the Census Report of Travancore, Rao Sahib Dr. Kunjan Pillai, one of the ablest and most patriotic of Travancore officers, has stated that of the total population of 5·1 millions, 1·5 millions or 29% are earners, 9·29 lakhs or 18·2% are working dependants and 2·69 millions or 52·8% are non-working dependants. It is seen from the Report that 39% of the population are engaged in agriculture and allied occupations. One looks in vain in the budget or Financial Secretary's long speech explanatory of the budget to find evidence of any attempt made by Government to help the development of agriculture in the country or to promote the economic well-being of the ryot. Paragraphs are devoted to expound the wonderfully original scheme for the re-organisation of public health activities and to magnify the importance of a few cottage industries section in the Industries Department which, history tells us, one Director creates, and his successor abolishes. I am not overlooking the fact that the Agricultural Department is not to be abolished or that an allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs is made for agricultural loans in all the 30 taluks together. But what would this avail the agriculturists? The problem has to be faced in all seriousness and it is regrettable that not even the fringe of the question is being approached by the Government in an earnest mood.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total of agricultural indebtedness in the State at Rs. 25 crores. On an average, the debt per head of the population is between Rs. 40 and Rs. 55, a figure higher than that in any province in British India, except the Punjab. The Census Commissioner stresses the fact, whatever be the average indebtedness, the total indebtedness is not less than Rs. 20 crores, which in itself is a colossal figure. The remedy adopted by Government is the inauguration of a Land Mortgage Bank for which the Financial Secretary would claim credit for issuing loans to the extent of Rs. 3,01,750 out of Rs. 5 lakhs available for issue of loans. If, as proposed for 1109, Rs. 3 lakhs is to be set apart annually for loans from the Bank, the Financial Secretary should enlighten the House as to the date by which the indebtedness of the agricultural population would be appreciably reduced. Incidentally, it would stagger the House to be reminded that the cost of the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank is Rs. 34,000 and works out to 10% of the annual turnover. If the situation were not potent with almost tragic significance, the attempt of Government would remind one of the old woman in the story, who tried to stop the waves of the Atlantic Ocean by means of a broom. It is deplorable that the Government have not been influenced or inspired by measures taken elsewhere by Governments who claim to be less paternal. In the Central Provinces, in the United Provinces and in Bengal, Acts have been passed setting up Debt Conciliation Boards. These Boards are not meant to provide a decent clothing to repudiation of debts. Apart from the fact that both lender and borrower have to face realities and recognize that, in times of adversity, sacrifices have to be made on all sides, there is the stubborn fact that, because of the unprecedented fall in prices, the creditors have secured a great and even unfair advantage over the debtors, if the debts are to be discharged in these times of undue depreciation of money, for which neither the creditor nor the debtor is responsible. A general rise in the prosperity of the peasantry, through better production and the securing of better value for their produce can alone bring about their real amelioration; but it is up to the Government to initiate and hasten measures directed to those ends, besides affording temporary relief and helping accommodation by setting free substantial allotments, adequate to the needs of the times and commensurate with the volume of indebtedness.

Having made these general observations aimed at impressing the Government with the need for bold and statesmanlike action in what really concerns the people, I would devote the few minutes still left to me, to touch upon a few points which have struck me in the budget proposals.

While the Retrenchment Committee put up proposals for reduction of expenditure by Rs. 15·19 lakhs, Government have given effect only to 20% of them, vetoed 40%, and pigeon-holed the rest by reserving them for consideration. Government, which in the past, have not omitted to raise salaries in view of increased cost of living, have dismissed with a curt "Not accepted" the Committee's proposal for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

temporary reduction in salaries, an expedient resorted to in recent years by all Governments and other employers of labour. One wonders whether the Financial Secretary has heard that, in Germany, the Government have even passed a law limiting the salaries of Directors of Joint Stock Companies.

The budget proposals not having been subjected to a preliminary scrutiny by a Finance Committee, the Government had a free hand in re-organizing departments, creating new posts and departments, and otherwise promoting the interests of those in service. One fails to understand why the trinity which controlled the destinies of the Medical Department should re-appear in the new incarnation of a Durbar Physician with two deputies, or why the Sanitary Department, which has been functioning as a separate department, should be placed under the 'nominal' control of a Durbar Physician except to provide another deputy, this time of Public Health. More Deputies, such as a Deputy Director of Public Instruction, seem to be in the making. A new allowance for an Assistant Secretary is smuggled in, but space is not found either in the innumerable foot-notes abounding in the budget or elsewhere to throw light on the question whether the lucky recipient is to be the Assistant Secretary who continues in charge of the Huzur gardens and the Central Vernacular Records or for what other purpose it is intended. While the receipts from the Road Fund are to be capitalised or funded, the receipts from the Cochin Harbour, which is not really customs revenue of the State, are added on to the Customs receipts. With the possibility of Cochin becoming a federal port as proposed by the Davidson Committee, it was a mistake to merge this windfall in the normal revenue instead of funding it for loans to the Port Conservancy Board and the development of Ports in the State. The Financial Secretary has succeeded in being obscure in his explanation of the operations conducted by him in the Government of India Loans Market, and in clouding the fact of his having gone in for less profit-yielding investments by taking credit under revenue receipts for premia on conversions. The reticence in regard to the Sinking Fund in respect of the Quilon-Shencottah railway is ominous by the side of the detailed statements about that relating to the Travancore Debenture Loan.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, a certain amount of official downrightness bordering on dogmatism rendered plausible by a mixture of valid figures and assumptions of doubtful validity is perhaps unavoidable in a document like the budget and naturally tends to excite criticism. Yet it cannot be said that there is no room for valid criticisms against the preliminary budget now presented to the House. Generally speaking, facts and figures go together and enter inseparably into the consideration of questions. In the present instance, the learned Financial Secretary has concentrated so much attention upon figures that he has practically lost sight of facts.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*Laughter.*) I may illustrate what I have said by a reference to the condition of agriculture in what is known as the Kuttanad region, a good portion of which I have the honour to represent in this House. Agricultural indebtedness has already been referred to by some of the previous speakers. Economic depression has come in for consideration at the hands of almost all the learned members who took part in the discussion. As misfortunes never come single, our taluk experienced three repeated floods this year. The cumulative effect of all these I need hardly describe. While wandering in the Kuttanad region for some recent exploit, I had the misery and the misfortune to witness the condition of the population in that region. Dogs, cats, cattle, men and women, I found huddled together. When the pent waters not only peeped over the threshold but also invaded the ground floor, the people had to find refuge upon the raised portions of their houses, like hearths and bins, passing sleepless nights in consternation, not knowing what was going to happen the next moment, on account of the rising floods and crocodiles on the prowl for calves. Such a miserable situation I have never come across in my life. A prelude of the final deluge was in evidence. As a result, the entire Virippu cultivation was destroyed, not a blade surviving the immersion in water. Seed-paddy was damaged, as also the paddy they had stored to meet the Government demand and the cost of cultivation for the next year. In such circumstances, I expected the Financial Secretary would feel a flash of sympathy, however faint and fleeting, for the people in such suffering.

But there is not a streak of humaneness anywhere to be seen in the estimates that the Financial Secretary has presented to the House. The one consideration which he is keen about, as I gather from the budget he has placed before the House, is the interest of entrenched officialdom. Elsewhere, the distress of the agricultural population has led to various remedial measures. I may refer to the sister State of Cochin where I understand a remission of land-tax to the extent of 12½ per cent. has just been allowed.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know whether it is suspension or remission?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am told it is remission. I am not quite sure, since the source of every information is only the newspaper report.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I inform the member.....

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): By all means inform. (*Laughter.*)

In Hyderabad, I see, Sir, that a *firman* of His Exalted Highness has been recently issued to prevent the transfer of holdings of agriculturists as far as possible and to safeguard their interests. The scope of the *firman* may be seen from the *Indian Journal of Economics* available in the Public Library. If such sister States

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

are prepared to take steps in the interests of agricultural industry, which is the mainstay of the people of this State, I wonder why the learned Financial Secretary alone cannot persuade himself to do something on parallel lines. I submitted a little while ago, Sir, that the interests of officialdom alone seem to have weighed in the preparation of the budget. I would have been very glad as much as my friend Mr. Chidambaram Pillai, not only not to depress the officials but also to encourage them if there was any justification to do so. But in the present budget, looking at the departments, what one sees is that the efficiency of every one of them seems to be at a very low ebb. There is no department, so far as I could see, that does not stand in need of extra stimulants and temporary staffs to carry on its work. The Forest Department wants a temporary staff for the adjustment of kudivila affairs. Not only that. Another officer with a special staff is needed for the purpose of game protection, though the Forest Regulation makes specific provision for the protection of game. The Conservator of Forests, as has been mentioned in this House a little while ago, seems to have reported that he is unable to cope with that work. Is it because that there is an increase of poachers and shikarees or there is an increase of the wild beasts themselves?

With respect to the Huzur Secretariat itself, for the disposal of stationery and kindred materials, a special staff is needed. In the Land Revenue Department, every activity seems to call for special staffs. There is an extra survey staff, there is the special officer for jenmikaram and there is also a special officer for resettlement. The same is more or less the case with the other departments. Special and temporary staffs have become the order of the day. This can only mean one thing, that is to say, that the departments have got slack or effete, that their capacity is sub-normal and that their control is relaxed. If in the case of such departments, the Financial Secretary is so anxious to provide whatsoever they may demand, why is he not considerate enough to turn attention to the people and meet them half-way as regards their demand? Certain other experiments have also been now attempted by the learned Financial Secretary by disuniting certain departments and uniting certain others. I see for example that the Medical, Sanitary and Health Departments are all drawn together. Whatever may be said with respect to the advisability of amalgamating the Sanitary and the Health Departments, I really fail to see the justification for placing these amalgamated departments under the Durbar Physician, for the Durbar Physician is, I see, an officer who is to be assisted at least by two deputies for carrying on his business. It is to such an officer that the amalgamated department is to be subordinated. Even in Cochin, recently they have asked the Durbar Physician to confine his attention to the Medical Department. Elsewhere, the practice I am quite sure, does not permit the medical officer strictly so called, to meddle with Public Health work. The Durbar Physician, as the head of a very big and important department, has

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

many weighty and careful duties to attend to. That he should be called upon to supervise the working of the Public Health Department is to put on him an additional strain, even where his qualification would permit it. It can only mean one of two things, either it must be with an idea to add to the salary of the Durbar Physician or for some other out-of-the way purpose, which would reveal itself so soon as the budget is passed.

Then I see that the Kandukrishi Department is removed from the Land Revenue Department. That of course has been with the object rendered obvious by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar yesterday. It will naturally tell upon the Devaswom Fund. In view of the press communique accompanying the Royal Proclamation on the separation of the Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department, it is very difficult to say that the amount of Rs. 16 lakhs therein conceded, as the minimum amount due to Devaswoms is capable of further reduction. I am perfectly therefore at one with my friend Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar in urging it upon the attention of Government that.....

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Then, why did not the Royal Proclamation say Rs. 16 lakhs?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It has been so computed. The Royal Proclamation has taken into account the income as it stood then and found that not less than 40 per cent. would be represented by Rs. 16 lakhs. This is explained pretty clearly by the Press Communique issued by Government upon the subject. I am not for a moment prepared to say that the Press Communique has ever departed from the spirit of the Royal Proclamation on the subject. The one explains the other. The Government are the trustees and the beneficiaries are the persons who are entitled to participate in the worship. Both the beneficiaries and the trustees have understood it in a particular light and no one else need step in to interpret the language to them. Now in this budget, an uncalled for interpretation is sought to be put upon the Proclamation. I stoutly oppose the idea and I beg to maintain that that attempt is not in keeping with the spirit of the Proclamation.

Sir, the activities of the Public Health Department which have been amplified into various minor items by the learned Financial Secretary are set forth to some extent in the budget. Some of them seem to be pretentious. No doubt they are generally beneficial. But a more essential, though less showy matter was brought to the notice of the House by my friend Mr. Joseph. There are places in Travancore where good drinking water is not available. A big department has been organised for the purpose of hunting out hookworm and for doing similar things. Yet there remains this commonplace necessity. Thousands of people suffer in that respect. They cry for good drinking water. At Thottappally, where Government find it impossible to make a bridge to facilitate communication and we are forced to depend upon *jungars*, the people are clamouring for good water. They get only brackish water. While I was in the Council some years ago,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

there was a similar cry from the marginal territory between the Kayancolam lake on the one side and the Arabian Sea on the other. An Araya member complained in the House that the people there cannot get good drinking water. The facts are before the Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member know that a resolution was passed in this House regarding this matter?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): From the question I gather that a resolution has been passed in the House. If, in spite of a resolution passed by the House, no provision should have been made for such an undeniable demand like that, it bespeaks some callousness and a painful omission which calls for immediate attention.

There are various other items also to be dwelt upon in this connection, but seeing that there are a number of other gentlemen who have yet to speak, I feel, Sir, I shall not be justified in taking any further time of this House. But I would again press on the attention of the Government the inability of the ryots to pay land tax as also their helplessness to meet other liabilities, because they have no resources except the agricultural produce. In addition to the land tax, there are other kinds of taxes they are asked to pay, like the registration fee for canoes and boats, tolls and so forth. They find it impossible to pay the school fees for their children. The Government have to take into consideration the pitiable plight of the people generally. That is all that I have to submit.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council, Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, I shall make a few observations with regard to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric scheme which has been the subject of discussion this morning.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): On a point of order, I wish to know whether manuscript eloquence is allowed in this House?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am not reading. Before passing on to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric scheme, I must touch on one or two other matters relating to the Trivandrum Electric supply and the Quilon Electric supply about which Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai had made some observations.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഒന്നും കേൾക്കാൻപാടില്ല.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): With regard to the Trivandrum Electric Supply scheme, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said yesterday that the profits derived from the scheme are mostly those contributed by Government. I beg to correct him in this matter. This might have been so in the earlier stages of the scheme, especially in the first and second year of its working. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

results of 1107 accounts show that the revenue contributed by Government towards the scheme was only less than 30 per cent. and the major portion of the revenue came from the public.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the amount contributed by Government in 1107 ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Out of a total revenue of Rs. 1,48,000 derived last year, Government contribution came to somewhere about Rs. 41,000 that is less than 30 per cent. whereas the income from private cousumers was about Rs. 68,000. Even in regard to this amount of Rs. 41,000 it has to be pointed out that a similar amount was spent by Government even before the Trivandrum Electric supply scheme came into existence towards power plants for running the Government Press, the School of Arts engine and for lighting purposes. My information is that, taking the engine installations into account, Government are really making a saving in expenditure by spending only Rs. 11,000 for electric power.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Where was the balance received ? The member has accounted only for a lakh of rupees.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am coming to that. The revenue from street-lighting is about Rs. 58,000. In the pre-electric days, Government were spending, besides contribution to the Municipality, Rs. 14,000 for maintaining 188 gas lamps. As against that, now, the Electrical Department is maintaining 1,227 lights, covering about thirtyfive miles, with an additional expenditure of about Rs. 9,000; and, further, while formerly the lighting was restricted to three hours per diem for about twenty days in the month, we are having now approximately twentyfour miles more of street-lights for about *six* hours *every* evening, irrespective of whether there is light or not. These facts have to be borne in mind when considering the financial aspect of the Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Why is it that the working expenses have increased from 1107 to 1109, while the income has not correspondingly increased ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): In 1108, at the time the Budget forecasts were made, owing to the shortage of copra, it was doubtful whether the oil mills at Tampanur would be working during the year; and I put a conservative figure for the anticipated income instead of showing an inflated revenue. As a matter of fact, in Kumbham, just before I went on leave, it was found that, owing to the importation of copra from Ceylon, the oil mills were able to work, with the result that the actuals of 1108 would not show any reduction in our profits from that of 1107. The figures for 1107 show a profit of about Rs. 53,000. I believe the accounts of 1108 will also show a similar figure, although we have budgetted for only a smaller amount for the reason I have explained.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Why is it that it is only Rs. 36,000 for 1109 also?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): In regard to 1109 also, I was not sure that the oil mills will be working.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): But the working expenses have gone up by about fifty per cent.; that shows that the Department did anticipate that all the oil mills would be working during the year.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Eletrical Engineer to Government*): The working expenses have not gone up to the extent of fifty per cent.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In 1107, the working expenses were Rs. 97,000, whereas, for 1109, they are Rs. 1,30,000. That works out to about thirtyfive per cent.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): From 1108 onwards, contributions to our pensions are also being added on to working expenses. That comes to one-sixth of our salaries.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is not a portion of the contribution to the pension of the Electrical Engineer, paid from the Pallivasal Scheme?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Only a portion, only that of the Electrical Engineer.

Then, with regard to the Quilon Electric supply, about which Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai spoke yesterday, I may assure him that the financial aspect of the scheme has been very thoroughly considered; and I have had informal discussions with the President of the Quilon Municipality who has a very intimate knowledge of the needs of the town. He has assured me that my forecast in regard to the revenue is, if anything, conservative. I have not estimated for anything like the revenue that we expect at Trivandrum. I have estimated for only Rs. 3,000 per annum from the Government institutions there, although there are two hospitals and numerous Government Offices.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): What will be the rate at which power will be supplied?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It will be the same as in Trivandrum, and it will be subject to the same fluctuations as in Trivandrum. It is possible, there also, to introduce a minimum of Re. 1-8 as., as in Trivandrum.

In this connection, I might clear one incorrect impression, if I may say so, about our rates. It was mentioned yesterday that, at Trivandrum, our rates were exorbitant. I think that was the word used. I may point out to the House, Sir, that out of about 56 towns in India, where there is electric-lighting, there are hardly 8 or 9 towns where the rates are lower than ours. And, in all those places, the minimum that the consumer has to pay on the metered basis is much higher than ours. Our minimum is only Rs. 1-8 as., so that a consumer with an

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

income of Rs. 40 or 50 per mensem can afford to have electric lights. The minimum is Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 in other places.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does my friend suggest that the minimum prescribed will have to be paid even if the consumer does not make use of the electrical energy?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Exactly. I believe, in Madras, the minimum is Rs. 5. I know it was Rs. 5 in Hyderabad. In Madura also, I believe, it is Rs. 3-8as. In Bangalore, it depends on the number of lamps installed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In Madras, what is the rate per unit?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It was, till very recently, 5 as.; but now, I believe, it is only 4½ as.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Here?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Six annas. But, the minimum here is only Re. 1-8as.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the rate at Bangalore?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Three-and-a-half annas, if I remember right.

In Madras, they are generating at least thirtyfive times the power generated here, so that the cost of generation is very low comparatively.

In course of time, Sir, it will be possible, when Quilon consumption works up to something like an economic basis, that is to say, when the consumption reaches about two million units, to link Quilon with the Pallivasal Scheme. That is the ultimate objective of the Department. Therefore, the proposal is to run the Quilon scheme initially as cheap as possible; and, for that purpose, we are taking two of our small engines from Trivandrum to start the supply at Quilon, so that the actual initial cost of the scheme will be kept as low as possible. It is expected that, with the initiation of electric supply, several of the business houses at Quilon, the tile factories and oil mills, will make use of electricity instead of their old and inefficient steam and oil engines. Taking the Trivandrum experience as the basis, it is hoped that, in another five years, it will be possible to work up to about two million units consumption per annum.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Who conducted the investigation for the Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I did it.

Sir, coming to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme, the main criticism regarding —

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Before that, may I ask, whether if it is going to be such a profitable concern, there is any objection to the rate being reduced? There seems to be so much of profit.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Where?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): In Trivandrum now, and in Quilon after it is worked there.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I do not think the profit is much. Our forecast is only for a return of five per cent. per annum. We have to allow five or six per cent. for depreciation. The profit depends on the consumption. If we get a large consumption, we can reduce the rate. In Trivandrum itself, the question of reducing the rate is being looked into. But, the main point to be considered in this matter is that any reduction of the rate will give only a small relief to the consumers who total more than 1,000. If the rate is reduced from six to five annas, each consumer may have to pay on an average, to the extent of only about 8 as. less per mensem; and this I do not consider a heavy burden for the kind of persons who use electric lights.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I ask whether the member thinks that the value of eight annas is not the same to the consumer as it is to Government?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): In spite of the present rate, the number of new connections go up to 20 every month. That shows that the present rate is not felt as a real hardship.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Government will be prepared to hand over the working of the Quilon scheme to the Quilon Municipality?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It is too early to give a definite answer to that question. Government are better prepared to undertake the risk which is involved in financial undertakings of this nature.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether the Municipality made a request to Government to leave the working of the scheme to the Municipality?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes; but the Municipality wanted a loan.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Did not the Municipality state that, if the Government were not prepared to sanction a loan, they (the Municipality) were prepared to take the initiative themselves and work the scheme?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes. As I said, the idea is to link up Quilon also with the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme; and that will be somewhat difficult if the enterprise is now left to the Municipality. Further, uniformity of rates could be more easily maintained if the electric supply throughout the the State is under the same control.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): In regard to Trivandrum, is it a fact that the officers of the Electrical Department were given increments of pay from 1108?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes; I believe, actually they got increments from 1108.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): So, will not the working expenses go up?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): That is one of the reasons for the increase in the working expenses.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Seeing that the officers of the department will have to be given their increments in the coming years, is it not inevitable that, with the consequent increase in the working expenses, the net profits will go down year after year?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): No; because, we are keeping pace with this increase in working expenses by increased consumption. Every year, consumption goes up by about twentyfive per cent.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): And, with the risk of some of the oil mills not working?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Even if the oil mills do not work, the rate of increase in consumption is sure to be maintained to compensate for the increase in the working expenses due to the increments accruing to the officers and staff of the department.

With regard to the Pallivasal Scheme, the first criticism that I observed was that it was classified as an ornamental work. Sir, there is nothing ornamental about this project. I fear that impression on the part of some of the Members is due to the fact that they imagine that it is primarily meant for the lighting of streets and houses as in Trivandrum. Sir, the Pallivasal Scheme is much more utilitarian than that. The main feature of the scheme is, not to beautify the towns, but for the distribution of cheap electric power for agricultural and industrial needs. Agricultural needs comprise drainage as well as irrigation and the network that is now proposed to be carried out will cover about 300 square miles.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know who was responsible for the first estimate on the Hydro-Electric Scheme?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, I will draw the attention of the House to the note placed in the Legislative Council at the time of the last Budget Session, on the 3rd of August 1932. The figures given there are only a forecast, and then it was specially stated there that only preliminary estimates have been completed. So that figure was only tentative.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether that was based on investigation or substantive data?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Certainly, on substantive data. I am coming to that if you will give me some time. The main feature of the scheme as conceived at the time was an open channel to divert water from the Munnar river to the foreway from where it is taken to the pipe lines. It was rather an ambitious proposal to keep the expenditure very low. But the one great weakness of that proposal was that the country through which the water course was taken was found to be unreliable during the last monsoon and subsequently also. The ground was found slipping badly and expensive steps would be necessary to maintain the water channel. At the same time, it would be difficult to induce very good customers of power to become consumers when the possibility of continuous supply is not assured. It was also mentioned in the last paragraph of that note that Government will proceed with that scheme only after obtaining a second opinion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, it was stated that it is a confidential note. Can the member read it now?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): There is no confidential matter in it now. It was placed before the Council. Accordingly Mr. Truscott was invited and he went through the whole of my investigation and estimate. He came to the conclusion that to take the water along the sides of the channel was enormously risky. He suggested, instead of an open channel, a tunnel about 10,000 feet long. This tunnel is estimated to cost Rs. 10 lakhs over my previous proposal. This is one of the items of excess expenditure.

The second item of expenditure is this. I had proposed to take the line from Pallivasal to Kotamangalam and from Kotamangalam to Kottayam and from Kottayam to Alleppey. Changanachery and Tiruvalla are branch lines. At the ultimate stage a loop line was proposed to be taken to Alwaye and from Alwaye to Shertala. Now investigation has shewed that the necessity of this loop line was problematical. So, this had to be given up.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether Todupuzha is included in the circuit?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): There is no need to take it to Todupuzha.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): But that is the easier route. I understand that the Electric Sub-Division Officer is now investigating it in a different line. But the other route will be the shorter and easier one. I do not know why Todupuzha is excluded, while the line will go straight if it is taken through it.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): The Todupuzha distribution will not come in the main line.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the member be pleased to inform whether he will make an investigation now?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): The investigation is going on at present. I was there only eight days ago.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. Mr. Menon says that the matter is under investigation. That is enough.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, we had, therefore, to provide double lines for transmission. This costs an additional Rs. 4 lakhs. Double line is necessary for ensuring continuous supply by making provision for cases of interruption to one circuit due to lightning or other interference. In order to secure large customers, who are running business of an out-turn of 20 or 25 lakhs of rupees per annum, it is most essential that we should guarantee a continuity of supply.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What was the net profit expected when the investment was Rs. 36 lakhs ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am coming to that.

Sir, in all these capital works, it is necessary to include the interest charges also in the estimate. For the first few years after construction, such works may not be remunerative. It is therefore necessary to provide for the interest charges also. This was not provided before. We have now provided Rs. 3 lakhs for interest charges. It may not be necessary to spend the money, but it has to be shown as an item of book adjustment.

Another item of expenditure is the increased supervision for tunnel construction and double line construction. All these together come up to the figure of Rs. 50 lakhs. These items explain the excess over the original estimate of Rs. 36 lakhs.

As one of the members pointed out, we are expecting a large consumption at Alwaye, and I understand that steps have already been taken in connection with the acquisition of land and construction of buildings. With a view to secure that customer for us, it was essential to guarantee a supply almost from the commencement of our operations. For that purpose, we have to extend the line right up to Alwaye. And for this purpose, an estimate has now been sanctioned amounting to Rs. 11·8 lakhs. That brings up the total to Rs. 70 lakhs. The customer at Alwaye is now making some other arrangement. But when we bring up the line and make the supply available, he will take power from us.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether the estimate is now double the original estimate ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It is less than double.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Does he guarantee that when he actually executes the work this amount will not be doubled ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I can guarantee that.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Will it cost us a crore of rupees ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): No, I did not say that. All that I said was that in order to be on the safe side we have included all items of expenses. But we have not allowed for a probable rise in prices of materials. If there are no large fluctuations in foreign markets, there is no reason why the estimate should be exceeded at all.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What is the estimated net receipt according to the revised scheme ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am coming to that.

One of the points raised yesterday was that, while in the note placed before the Council last year, the consumption was given as 9·6 million units in the early stages of working, in the Financial Secretary's speech it is stated as 7 to 8 million units minimum consumption. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that what was mentioned in the Financial Secretary's speech related to the immediate market. That is very significant. A continuous load giving an annual consumption of 7 to 8 millions will be available immediately.

In this connection, I also wish to refer to the proposal for the establishment of a paper mill at Tattakad. Investigation is going on now by one or two firms interested in that business. When that scheme comes through, an additional annual consumption of ten to twelve millions will be guaranteed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What investment will be necessary for that ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): No special investment will be necessary. It may cost only about Rs. 40,000. And power will be supplied from the sub-station at Kotamangalam. That is why we have located a sub-station there. One of the reasons why this business is likely to come in is the availability of cheap power.

Out of the Rs. 70 lakhs that will be spent on this Project, it is very significant that more than Rs. 20 lakhs should be spent in this State alone by way of wages and materials. Apart from the direct revenue which it is possible to anticipate in the first three years' working, and which will bring a return of 5 per cent. interest and the working expenses, a sinking fund is provided in addition to pay back the capital in 25 years and also depreciation to cover a period of 30 years. In all these schemes, the indirect revenue to be derived should also be considered. If the mill at Alwaye starts its working, it is expected, in the course of five or six years, employment direct and indirect for about two to three thousand people will be obtained, which means, by way of wages and salaries at least Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs per annum.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Another economic aspect of the scheme is also to be borne in mind. At present there is an annual expenditure of 600,000 gallons of kerosene oil for cultivation in the *Punja* area. This costs, at a modest estimate, an amount of Rs. 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. This drain could be stopped in course of time if all the lands are brought under electric pumping.

Another point that was emphasised during the course of the discussion was that the whole work should be taken up immediately instead of in stages. The cost of the head works has gone up by an additional expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs on account of the tunnel which makes the first stage of the proposal not a profitable business by itself. Moreover, the requirements of the business concern at Alwaye which necessitated the extension of the lines to Alwaye had also to be considered.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether Government have any assurance of consumption of considerable energy in Alwaye?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): More or less, that is the understanding. But no agreements have been signed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member what will be the expected receipts from the undertaking?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I have already explained that.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I may first be permitted to offer my thanks to those members of the House who have congratulated me for presenting a surplus budget. As usual, there has been some criticism about the variations between the estimated and the actual figures of the budget. I may point out that such differences are inevitable in view of the fact that the budget for any year will be prepared pretty long before the actual commencement of the year. In this connection, I may be permitted to repeat what I had occasion to tell the House last year, as well as in previous years, that such differences between the budget estimates and the actual figures are not peculiar to Travancore alone; but are quite common to the budgets of other countries as well.

Mr. K. Padmanabhan has suggested that the various departmental budget estimates should be first scrutinised and discussed by non-departmental independent local agencies, before it is actually presented to the House. No doubt, the suggestion is an ideal one. But it does not appear to be feasible in practice. Moreover, I would inform the member that the preliminary budget estimates are first scrutinised by a representative body of the Legislature, namely, the Finance Committee, before they are subjected to the formal vote of the Assembly.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is the Financial Secretary aware that similar practices are obtaining in other countries?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not aware: but I am subject to correction. So far as my information goes, there is no such institution anywhere.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is the member aware that such a practice obtains among the civilised States of America?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May be. Then, the reclassification of the various items of expenditure comprised under the major head "State Charities" has been the subject of some criticism by Mr. S. Krishna Pillai. The reclassification has had to be made for the obvious reasons mentioned in my speech introducing the budget.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from the member, how is it that the funds under Charity came to be included under Devaswoms?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Because the expenditure under certain items formerly included under State Charities is closely allied to that under Devaswoms.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it the member's opinion that State Charity has become the State's function?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Not exactly that.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): What does he mean by that? Does he mean to suggest that his predecessors were at fault for not having regrouped the items as the present Financial Secretary has done?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Some distinction has now been made between Devaswoms and State Charities for purposes of voting. So a regrouping has become necessary.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I take it from the member that regrouping has been resorted to specifically for the purpose of depriving us of the right to vote on that amount?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Then, what does the member mean by saying that the voting problem has helped the Financial Secretary in resorting to such method?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What I said was that the question of re-grouping came up in connection with the distinction between votable and non-votable demands.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it the member's opinion therefore that if this House is given the privilege of voting on this amount, this House will certainly vote it out.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have no such opinion. Anyhow, it is the duty of the Financial Secretary to note in the budget whether an item is votable or non-votable. Formerly both the major heads Devaswoms and State Charities were non-votable.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I take it, at the time the Legislative Reforms Regulation came into force, these amounts retained their original place under State Charities or whether before that date these amounts were transferred.

MR. R NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): When the Reforms Regulation came into force, these particular sub-heads retained their original places under State Charities.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know when did the Financial Secretary attempt to regroup the items under Devaswom and State Charities? Was it after the Legislative Reforms Regulation came into force?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): When the draft budget was being prepared, the necessity arose to mark the items in it as either votable or non-votable.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Was it on the date when the Reforms Regulation came into force that Agrasala Funds were, as a matter of fact, treated as within "State Charities".

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have already answered that question.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): That is not enough. Does the member say in so many words that when the Reforms Regulation came into force, Agrasala Funds were treated as within State Charities?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): All the amounts under Agrasala were under the head "State Charities" on the date on which the Regulation was passed.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it with His Highness' sanction this transfer of items was effected at the time the Reforms Regulation came into force?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The re-classification was made at the time of the preparation of the draft budget.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know, was it with the express sanction of His Highness the Maha Raja, that this item was taken from State Charities and included under non-votable items?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was done under proper sanction.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know, was that done under Government sanction?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under proper sanction.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I want to ascertain whether a privilege that has been conferred by a Statute could be taken away by an executive order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): So far as classification of items under budget heads is concerned, the decision of the Government is final.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I am asking the question whether the right once conferred by a Statute could be taken away by the order of the Financial Secretary.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no question of any right having been taken away.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Then, may I take it that we will be permitted to vote on it.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Only the amounts included under the head "State Charities" could be voted on.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I am referring to the amount originally treated as under "State Charities". I believe we can vote on it.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Only the items included in the draft budget under the Major Head "State Charities" are votable.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I take it that it is the decision of Government that amounts under 'Agrasala' and 'Japadakshina' do really form part of the Devaswom Department.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, that is the decision of Government.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether under the Royal Proclamation, Government are not debarred from expending the amounts out of the general revenues.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Agrasala and the Japadakshina expenditure is met out of the General Revenues and not out of the Devaswom Fund, constituted under the Royal Proclamation.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether Government are at liberty to spend further amounts on Devaswoms from the general revenues of the State.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): That raises a question of law and the Financial Secretary has nothing to do with that.

PRESIDENT: That question is disallowed.

MR. R NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai referred to the disproportionately high salary that is charged in the Railway accounts in respect of the salary of the South Indian Railway Station Master at Quilon, and to the unfavourable bearing that such a high salary would have on the relative share of the expenditure to be debited to this State on account of the Quilon—Shencottah Railway.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Is the Financial Secretary in a position to assure the House that the pay of the Station Master in the accounts is the pay that is actually paid out to him?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I am not in a position to do that. All that I can say is that whether his pay is Rs. 100 or 500, it does not affect the accounts, so far as Trivandrum—Tinnevelly line is concerned.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Will the member please explain this.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The working expenses of the Travancore Branch, that is, the line from Tinnevelly to Trivandrum, are reckoned as follows :—

> "The working expenses of the Travancore Branch for each half year shall be taken to be such a sum as bears the same proportion to the gross earnings of the said line during such half year, as the working expenses for that half year of the company's undertaking for the time being (including the Travancore Branch) and all other charges (if any) to revenue account properly chargeable to that half year, bear to the gross earnings of the undertaking including the Travancore Branch for that half year".

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Even though the calculation is like that, if we take the percentage of the working expenses of stations like Madura and Trichy with very big staffs drawing high salaries and compare it with ours, will it not ultimately result in a loss to us ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : So far as the charging of expenses for the Tinnevelly-Trivandrum line is concerned, actual expenses are not taken into account at all. The total receipts and the total working expenses of the whole S. I. R. line, including the Travancore branch, are first taken into account and a proportion is then struck between the gross receipts and the gross working expenses. The working expenses of the Travancore branch are put down at this proportion of the gross receipts from the line, irrespective of the actual amounts spent.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : From the nature of the details, is the Financial Secretary in a position to assure us that in that combination we are not losers.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I do not think we are losers.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Is he in a position to definitely say that we are not losers by this arrangement ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The question has been answered already.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is it the percentage of the recurring expenditure that is taken into account ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) Working expenses are taken into account. Working expenses include recurring expenses as well.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : So non-recurring expenses will be charged to the capital ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Certain non-recurring expenses will be charged to capital.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether there is any percentage fixed?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The percentage of working expenses is about 60 per cent. of the gross receipts.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether the whole S. I. R. is not working at a loss?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Some of the units of the S. I. R. are working at a loss.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is it to the same extent as ours?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): More or less.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is there any special circumstance which makes it so?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is now loss on the Travancore Railways *i. e.* on the line from Tinnevelly to Trivandrum. This line is treated for account purposes as one unit, and the opening of the chord line from Tenkasi to Virudunagar has affected the receipts.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Does the agreement between the Travancore Government and the S. I. R. allow new lines to be opened to the detriment of Travancore?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is nothing to prevent the S. I. R. from opening new lines.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Anyhow does it not affect us adversely?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The opening of a new line has affected us adversely to some extent. This Government are in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Who opened the line?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The S. I. R. Company.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): How does the member say that on account of the opening of the new line there is a fall in the income?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Formerly those who wanted to go to Madras had to go *via* Tinnevelly. But on account of the opening of the new line, they take the chord line route. The fare from Tenkasi to Tinnevelly, which would have augmented the receipts of the Travancore Railway now goes to the credit of the chord line.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Iyer has observed that the item "Receipts from Markets" was transferred from Sanchayam to Miscellaneous, last year and, that this year the revenue from Kandukrishi lands is deducted from Land Revenue Receipts.

In para 4 of the Royal Proclamation dated 12th April 1922, it is stated that the Devaswom Fund shall consist of the allotment made in the State Budget every year for the scheduled Devaswoms, such allotment not being less than 40 per cent. of the Ayacut and Sanchayam Land Revenue of the State.

The contribution to the Fund has therefore been fixed at 40 per cent. of the Ayacut and the Sanchayam Land Revenue of the State from 1107 onwards instead of a lump sum grant of Rs. 16 lakhs.

The item "Receipts from Markets" was classified under Land Revenue—Miscellaneous in 1098 and therefore in fixing the 40 per cent. proportion, the receipt from this item was not taken into account. In the general reclassification of receipt items under Land Revenue, with a view to facilitate the reconciliation of departmental and Treasury figures and also to simplify classification, it was classified as an item of receipt under Sanchayam in 1099. As the receipt under this item was not taken into account when the Proclamation was issued, it was again reclassified under Miscellaneous, to facilitate the calculation of contribution to the Devaswom Fund. In regard to the separation of Kandukrishi Revenue and the consequent reduction of contribution referred to by the member, I have already explained that the contribution is calculated on the gross receipts and not on the net receipts under *Ayacut* and *Sanchayam*.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has sufficient provision been made for irrigation and communications?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The total allotment for the P W. D. for the next year is higher than that for the current year.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What was it in 1108?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1108 it was Rs 29 lakhs and this year the provision is more than Rs. 30 lakhs. Further there is provision for capital expenditure amounting to nearly 19 lakhs.

MR. A.S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know then whether all the figures found in the budget are not correct?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They are all correct. I am speaking of the total allotment under P. W. D. and under Capital Works.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does it include the Hydro-Electric scheme and others?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It does not benefit the peodle who are in need of irrigation and roads.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am speaking only of the total allotment under P. W. D. and Capital Works. The Hydro-Electric scheme is meant for the economic advancement of the State.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it inclusive of the concrete road in Trivandrum?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the expenditure for the concrete road?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The works provided for next year are shown in *Appendix* B of the budget.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has the member any idea of the cost of one mile of concrete road?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It will be about Rs. 50,000.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know how many miles of road are intended to be converted into concrete road this year?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have not got the information now. The member may refer to *Appendix B* of the budget.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It is not stated there

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Then that means there is no provision. (*Laughter.*)

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): What is the rule of Government as regards lapsing of funds once sanctioned? Has not the Government the duty to restore it in the next budget?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As far as funds permit, it is done.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I see that funds ear-marked and provided in the last year's budget are totally left out in this year's budget.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Quite possible There may be some such items.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Is it a good practice?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is all governed by the amount of funds available.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Does the member mean to say that the financial position is absolutely sound?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*). Yes.

PRESIDENT: We will now adjourn to meet at 11 o' clock on Monday.

The House adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly